Braehour Gunns: some lives

Being descendants of John Gunn 1721-1810

by

Alastair Gunn

Braehour farmhouse 2011

For Wendy

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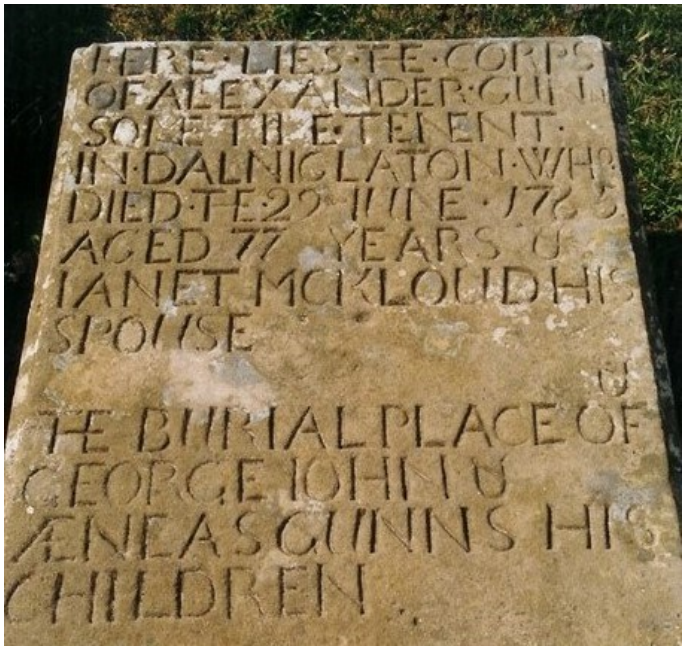
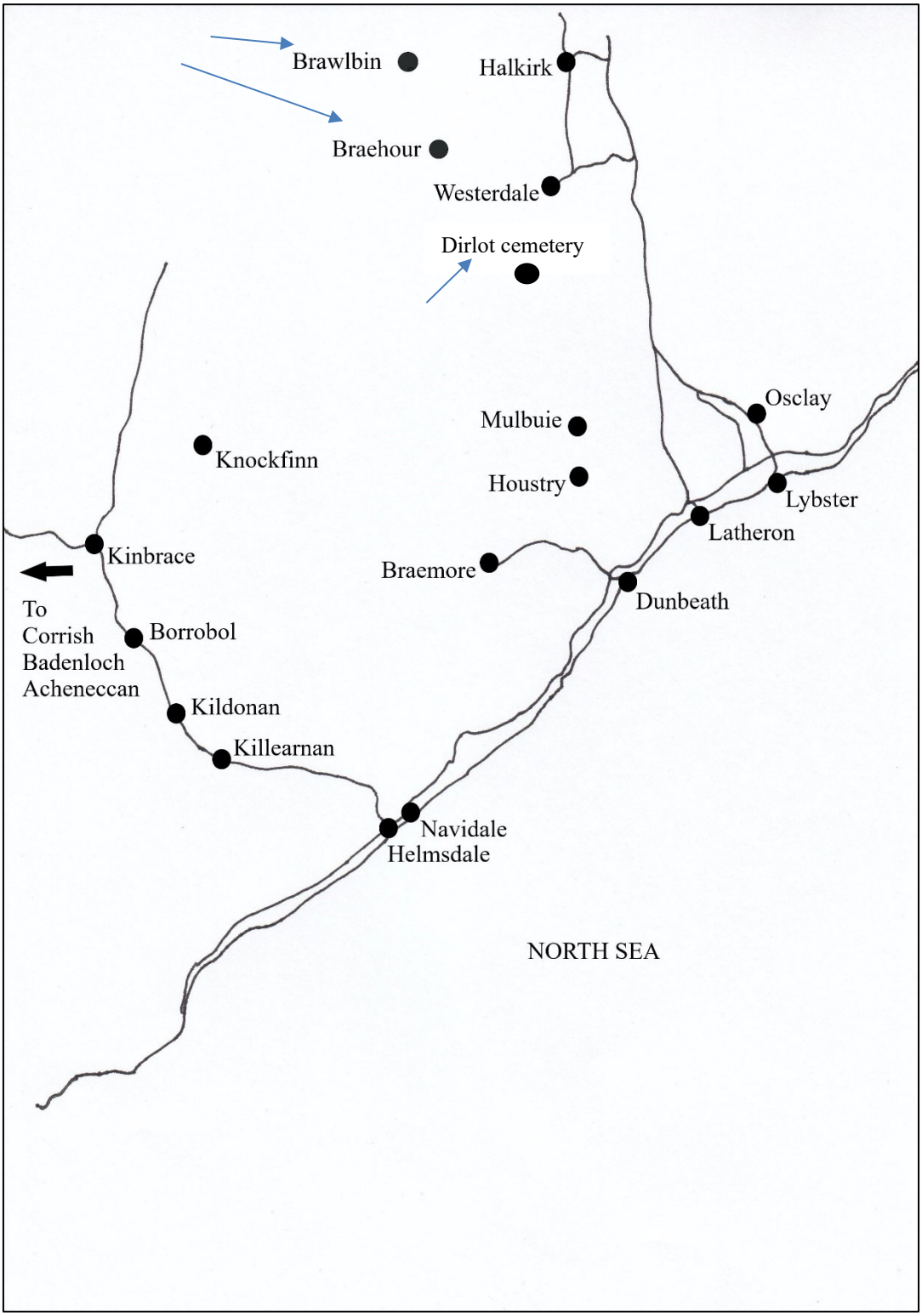


The gravestone at Dirlot cemetery, Caithness, for John Braehour Gunn, his brothers and their father Alexander Dalnaglaton Gunn. It reads -

HERE LIES THE CORPS OF ALEXANDER GUN SOLE THE TENENT IN DALNIGLATON WHO DIED 22 JUNE 1765 AGED 77 YEARS & JANET MCKLOUD HIS SPOUSE
THE BURIAL PLACE OF GEORGE JOHN & AENEAS GUNNS HIS CHILDREN



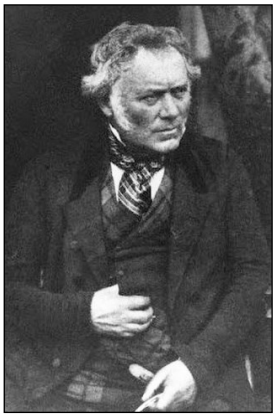
Showing Braehour and other significant Gunn places.

Dalnaglaton (where John Braehour Gunn – the founder of the family in this text - was born) is near Loch More, significantly to the north of this map. 'Braehour' and other place names are attached to / incorporated into people's names to clarify who they are – too many people had the same name and without the place name it is hard to tell who was whom.

Introduction

The Gunns of Braehour are a very important Clan Gunn family. They descend from Margaret Gunn who was a daughter of Chief Donald Crotach Gunn and they are the continuing, traditional Clan Gunn Chief line. Margaret married John 'Borrobol, Kinbrace Farm, Rumsdale, Grimachary' Gunn.[1] His father was George Gunn of Borrobol. George's father was John in Navidale of Borrobol Gunn and his father was William Beag Gunn, for more on William see the next page.

Margaret and John had two legitimate[2] sons. The first was George who had Chief Hector Gunn (the Court of Session determined in 1803 that he was Chief of the Clan Gunn), then there was his son Chief George Gunn of[3] Rhives (again the Court of Session accepted he was Chief). He was followed by his sons Chief Donald Gunn then Chief Hector Gunn. This line ran out of named Gunns with the death of Chief Hector Gunn in 1874.



Chief George Gunn of Rhives 1787-1859, perhaps aged around 50.

The second son was Alexander Dalnaglaton Gunn. The College of Arms in London has registered my genealogy back to him, this means my descent is legally proven.[4] As said, this descent is the ongoing, traditional Clan Gunn Chief line. See page 6 for an outline of the Clan Gunn Chiefs and how Alexander Dalnaglaton Gunn fits in. Alexander's eldest son was John Braehour Gunn who died in 1810. The more historically interesting of John's descendants are the main subject of this text.

There is a suggestion that Viscount S.M. Bruce 1883-1967, the eighth Prime Minister of Australia, had a Braehour Gunn connection.[5]

[1] For more detail on their lives see *https://www.academia.edu/101053875/A_life_of_John_Gunn_of_Kinbrace_Farm_who_married_Margaret_Gunn_daughter_of_Chief_Donald_Crotach_Gunn*

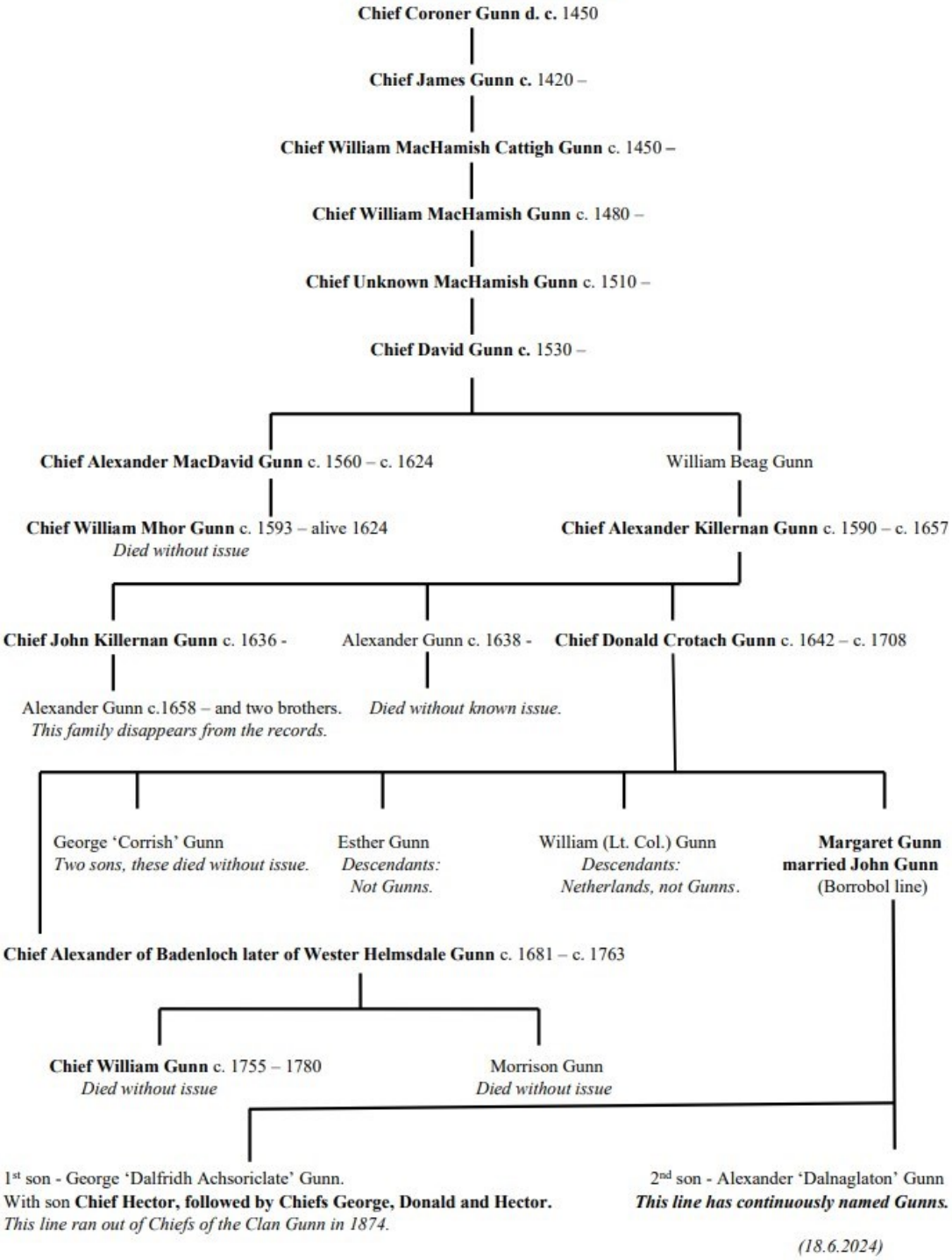
[2] There is a suggestion that John fathered the illegitimate Captain John Gunn of the 12th Regiment of Foot in 1745. Given the date it suggests that Margaret Gunn died before her husband.

[3] Technically 'of' indicates the 'owner' (more accurately wadsetter / renter) of a property, 'in' indicates lived at – used by children and so on. It is not always possible to be accurate hence a person may not have either 'of' or 'in' attached to a name. Some transcriptions over the years showing 'of' or 'in' may be in error. In the main I have put the property between the first name and surname of the relevant person, such as Alexander Dalnaglaton Gunn.

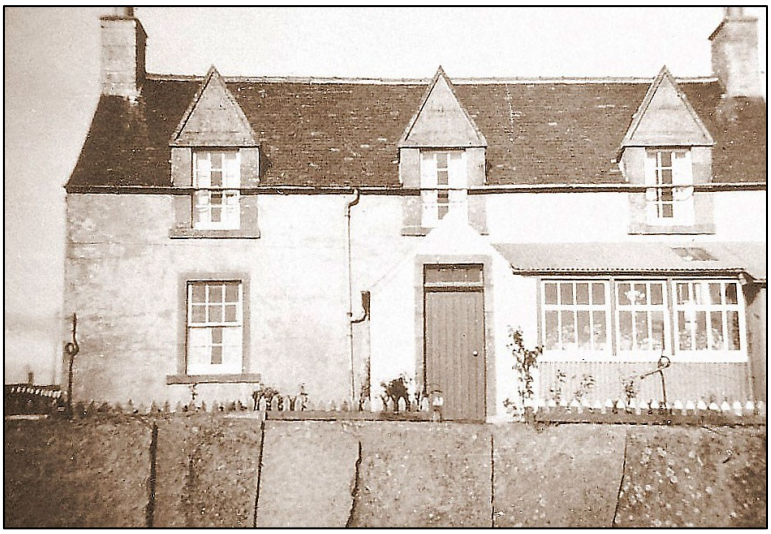
[4] My descent is legally proven in England, Wales and parts of the British Commonwealth. Scottish law is independent. A 2015 Clan Gunn Chief Iain Gunn of Banniskirk was established by Lord Lyon on the wrong assumption that no-one could prove descent from the traditional Clan Gunn Chief line. He was wrong. Does Lord Lyon have the right to create such Chiefs? The Court of Session – the supreme court of Scotland - says that he does not have that right.

[5] 'The Brisbane Courier' Thursday 31 March 1927, Page 19. 'His grandparents held the beautiful farm of Munsary, near Thurso, Caithness, and his grandparents emigrated to Australia about the year 1850. His grandmother, a Mrs Gunn, belonged to Braehour, the home of my ancestors, the chief of the clan Gunn.'

The Clan Gunn Chiefs



John Braehour Gunn



Braehour farmhouse 1928.
The photograph was taken by either William Watkins Gunn or Marcus Daniel Gunn.
They were members of the Australian Scottish Delegation which visited Caithness in 1928. They were brothers of the Hon. John Alexander Gunn, see pages 79-86.

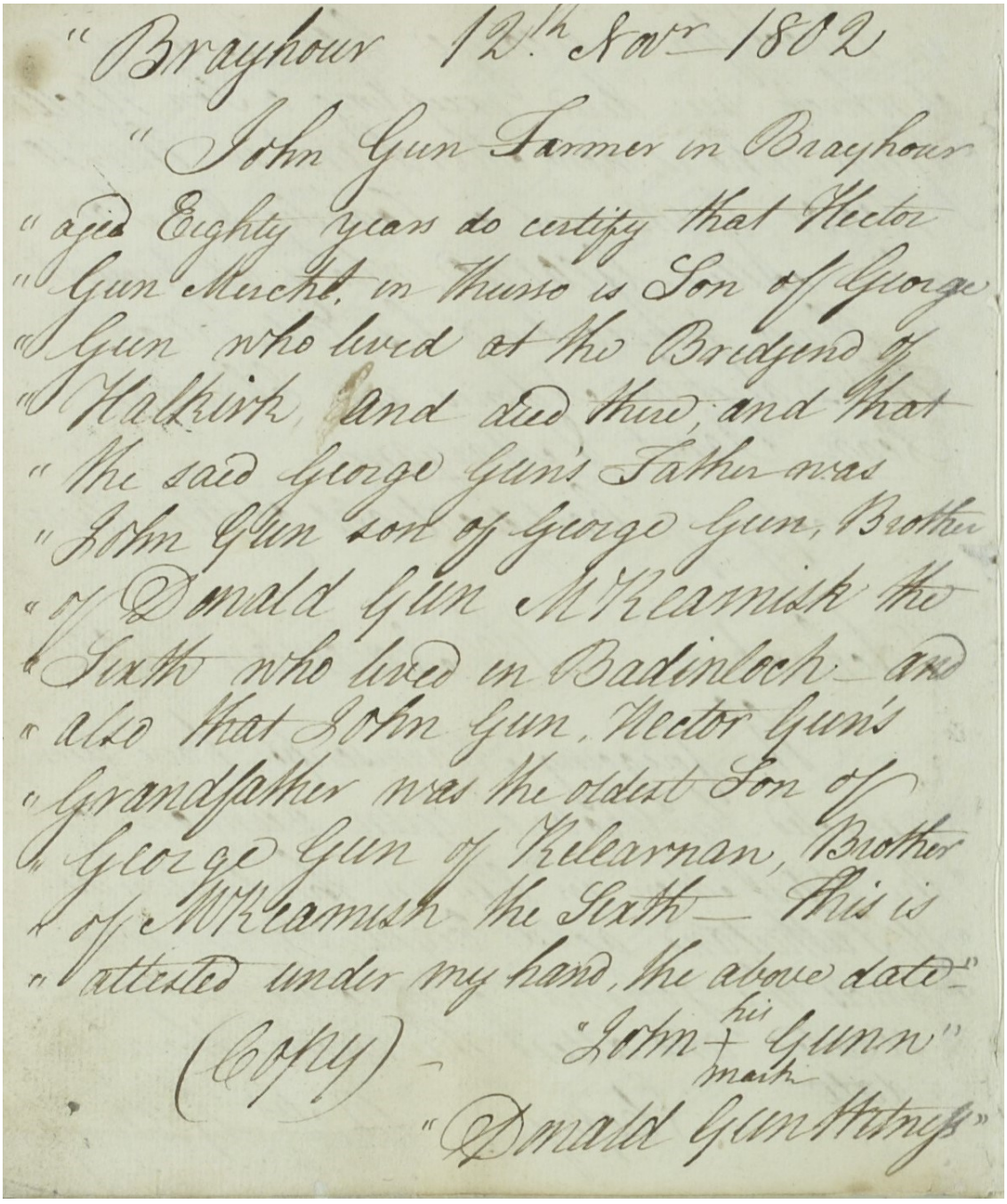
As said, the second son of Margaret Gunn, daughter of Chief Donald Crotach Gunn and John Gunn, was Alexander Dalnaglaton Gunn. Alexander was born on 7 January 1685 and died June 1765. He married Janet / Jean MacLeod of Dalnaha on 10 August 1716, she was born 1 August 1695. His brother George, father of the Clan Gunn Chief line, married Jean's sister.

Alexander Dalnaglaton Gunn and Janet / Jean had six children. The first child was -

John Braehour Gunn who was born on 21 June 1721 and who lived initially at Dalnaglaton. It is unclear when John moved to Braehour. He died there in 1810.

He married Marjorie (Mary?) Rowens and Hempriggs Dunbar on 2 July 1745 in Watten. She was born on 10 January 1727. John and Marjorie had eight children, those children had forty-one children and the generations obviously continued. The biographies in the main part of this text are from this marriage

John was a key witness in the 1802 meeting which was part of the Court of Session investigation into the establishment of the legal Chief of the Clan Gunn which found in favour of his first cousin the previously mentioned Chief Hector Gunn who died in 1803. As said, this line ran out of Chiefs in 1874. John was illiterate as shown by his mark on a copy of a piece of evidence for this investigation which clearly identified him as being of Braehour. See the next page.



'Brayhour 12 Nov 1802 John Gun Farmer in Brayhour aged Eighty years do certify that Hector Gunn Mercht in Thurso is son of George Gun who lived at the Bridgend of Halkirk and died there and that the said George Gun's father was John Gun son of George Gun brother of Donald Gun McKeamish the sixth who lived in Badinloch and also that John Gun, Hector Gun's Grandfather was the oldest son of George Gun of Kilernan, brother of McKeamish the Sixth. This is attested under my hand, the above date (copy) John Gunn + his mark Donald Gun witness'

Presumably Donald Gunn was his son, the sennachie.

John Braehour Gunn, outline of some descendants

Those in **bold** have detailed biographies in this text. The number before the name represents the generation from Coroner Gunn, the first Gunn in history. He was, obviously, generation 1.

The vast majority of the descendants of John Gunn of Braehour no longer hold the surname Gunn. Many of the descendant lines are extinct.

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12. **John Braehour Gunn** and Marjorie (Mary) Rowens and Hempriggs Dunbar their children include -

13. Donald Braehour and Brawlbin Gunn, the sennachie. He married Catherine Osclay Gunn. They had –

14. **Barbara Braehour Gunn** (1810-1844) with descent from the ongoing traditional Clan Gunn Chief line. She married Alexander Bualchork and Brawlbin Gunn (1789-1847). (Alexander's nephews include **Sir John Gunn of Tormsdale** and **Marcus Gunn**). Barbara and Alexander had, amongst others, -

15. Catherine Gunn (1830-1912) who married **James Miller** in Australia. (1826-1918). *Descendants, not Gunns.*

15. **Donald Gunn** of Brawlbin and Ballarat Australia (1832-1901). Married Jane Surman (1836-1908). *Descendants including*

16. **the Hon. John Alexander Gunn,** Australia (1860-1910). *With ongoing Gunn descendants.*

14. **John Gunn of Durness.** He married Kath (Catherine) Gunn of Campster a granddaughter of Christian Gunn, a sibling of **John Braehour Gunn**. See the next page. *The descent line died out of Gunns.*

14. **Capt. Alexander Gunn**.[6] Married Mary Innes Campbell (1808-1864). *Descendants.*

13. William Gunn. Married 1. Janet (Jean) Henderson. They had, amongst others[7] -

14. the Hon. Donald Canada Gunn (1797-1878). Married Margaret Swain. *Descendants.*

William married 2. Janet Sinclair**.** See the first paragraph in the following 'Siblings of John Braehour Gunn.' They had, amongst others, -

14. William Waranga Australia Gunn (1804-1888). Married Cecilia Cormack (1820 -). *Descendants.*

*****

For much more detail on the Gunn family see the 1896 Tree by **14. Captain Alexander Gunn** at https://www.flickr.com/photos/199463589@N07/53309167369/in/dateposted-public/

[6] See pages 17-21.

[7] There is some confusion as to which 'other' children were born to which mothers. The area would benefit from further research. Donald and Wiliam are with the right mothers.

Siblings of John Braehour Gunn

- George (Dalnaglaton) Gunn d. 1800 / 1805? George Gunn probably had four children; 1) Betty who married her first cousin Alexander, son of Angus / Aeneas Gunn - see the next sibling of John Braehour Gunn (below), 2) Janet who married John Sinclair of Reay with daughter Janet who married[8] her cousin (13) William Gunn in Braehour (see the second marriage of William towards the bottom of the preceding page) with children including **William Gunn of Waranga** in Victoria, Australia (see pages 29-40). 3) Donald Dalnaglaton Gunn who ran out of Gunn descendants and perhaps 4) 'Hester' Gunn d.1785.

- Angus / Aeneas Gunn with son Alexander who married Betty, see immediately above. Other children, the line seems to have died out of Gunns by 1896.

- Christian Gunn**.** Marries James Gunn (Delgrate?) with son John Gunn of Dyke with daughter Kath (Catherine) of Campster who married **John Gunn of Durness** 1808-1885. John Gunn of Durness was a son of **Donald Braehour and Brawlbin**, see pages 11-12. And see the previous page.

- Jean Gunn. Married a William Gunn. Their daughter Janet married into the Gunns of Braemore.

- Margaret Gunn. Margaret married Robert Elder. It is through this Elder line that Iain Gunn of Banniskirk claimed the Chiefship of the Clan Gunn in January 1984. See, as well, footnote 4 on page 5.

[8] William Gunn in Braehour certainly married a Janet Henderson and the 1896 Family Tree shows this close link. I accept it as the Tree was drawn up by **Captain Alexander Gunn of Braehour**, a close cousin. See pages 17-22.

Lives of some descendants

Donald Braehour and Brawlbin Gunn 1765-1861 (son)

*being the eldest son of **John Braehour Gunn***

Brawlbin farm, 2011

Donald Gunn in Braehour, later of Brawlbin, married Catherine Gunn in Osclay on 3 March 1807. Her parents were Alexander Gunn of Osclay and Barbara Weir / Wheir. Alexander and his daughter Catherine are of interest as they descend from Donald the Scholar Gunn who was a son of Wiliam Beag Gunn.

There is a suggestion that Donald got the 'lease' for Braehour Farm because the Sutherland Estate was raising men for military service in Ireland and none would go unless Donald went. (The reason why an Estate wanted people to enlist is that Estates got a bounty for every man recruited.[9]) The Sutherland Estate supposedly promised him the lease of Braehour in writing so he went to Ireland for seven years, then returned. The Estate then tried to get out of the lease but before going to Ireland Donald had left money and the Estate's letters with Henderson in Thurso who was a banker and the Sheriff. In consequence, Donald got Braehour.

When I searched in the Sutherland Estate documents in the National Library of Scotland I did not find any support for the story but I could have missed the information. But why would the Sutherland Estate work in such an underhand way? They had more than enough land and power to deal with any such issue. The story seems unlikely.

[9] Page 126 http://theses.gla.ac.uk/680/1/1995mackillopphd.pdf accessed 27 March 2021.

If there is any truth behind the story there are two options. Firstly, it is true that a promise of military service for land was 'the chief weapon'[10] of the Sutherland Estate enrolment techniques for the 93rd Sutherland Highlanders in the period 1799-1804/5 and 'the promise was 'that the fathers should have leases of their farms' which was 'to a certain extent fulfilled.''[11] The 93rd served mainly in Ireland but in 1806 it fought at the Cape of Good Hope including a Donald Gunn; whether that Donald Gunn was 'our' Donald Gunn is not known.[12] But it is also possible that Donald began military service in 1797 with the Rothesay and Caithness Fencible Regiment[13] and perhaps ended military service in 1802.

The years work for Donald getting Braehour through some sort of military service – he was born circa 1766. He may have enlisted in 1797 / 1799 for some unclear amount of time and then married Catherine Gunn of Osclay on 3 March 1807.

Braehour may have been in possession of Donald's father John (1721-1810) and Donald's military service in either of the given military options may have helped the lease to be renewed. Of interest is that many Sutherland Estate leases were due to be 'out of set'[14] (meaning up for renewal – or someone else taking over) on Whitsunday 1807; the potential problems for existing leaseholders on this day is obvious.

Donald Gunn was a member of the first Clan Gunn Society in 1821.

He died of a fractured neck on 3 January 1861 at Brawlbin.[15]

Donald and Catherine had eight children, including –

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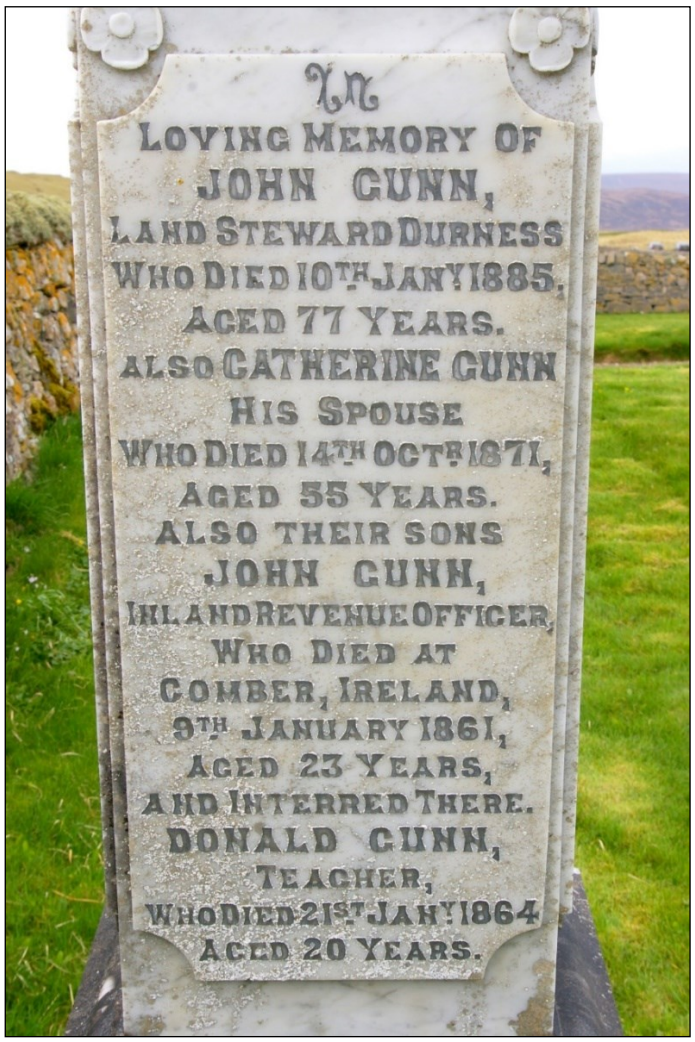
1st child - John Gunn of Durness. *Descendants, now not Gunn.* See pages 13-14.
2nd child - Barbara Gunn who marries Alexander Bualchork and Brawlbin Gunn, *Gunn descendants.* See pages 15-16.
4th child - Captain Alexander Gunn, historian. *Descendants*. See pages 17-22.

[10] Page xxvii, ed R. J Adams, *Papers on Sutherland Estate Management Volume 1*.
[11] Footnote 3, quoting from the *Royal Commission on the Crofters and Cottars in the Highlands and Islands of Scotland 1884*, page xxvii, R. J Adams, *Papers on Sutherland Estate Management Volume 1*.
[12] Page 11, R. H. Burgoyne, *Historical Records of the 93rd Sutherland Highlanders*, 1883, London, Richard Bentley and Sons.
[13] 'The plan of raising Fencible Corps in the Highlands was first proposed and carried into effect by Mr Pitt (afterwards the Earl of Chatham), in the year 1759. During the three preceding years both the fleets and armies of Great Britain had suffered reverses, and to retrieve the national character great efforts were necessary. In England County militia regiments were raised for internal defence in the absence of the regular army; but it was not deemed prudent to extend the system to Scotland, the inhabitants of which, it was supposed, could not yet be safely entrusted with arms. Groundless as the reasons for this caution undoubtedly were in regard to the Lowlands, it would certainly have been hazardous at a time when the Stuarts and their adherents were still plotting a restoration to have armed the clans. An exception, however, was made in favour of the people of Argyll and Sutherland, and accordingly letters of service were issued to the Duke of Argyll, then the most influential and powerful nobleman in Scotland, and the Earl of Sutherland to raise, each of them, a Fencible regiment within his district. Unlike the militia regiments which were raised by ballot, the Fencibles were to be raised by the ordinary mode of recruiting, and like the regiments of the line, the officers were to be appointed and their commissions signed by the king. The same system was followed at different periods down to the year 1799, the last of the Fencible regiments having been raised in that year.' http://www.coghlan.co.uk/fencibles.htm
[14] Page xxvii, ed R. J Adams, *Papers on Sutherland Estate Management Volume 1*.
[15] *John O'Groat Journal*, 24 Jan 1861.

John Gunn of Durness 1808 – 1885 (grandson)

*With father **Donald Braehour and Brawlbin Gunn** 1765-1861, being a son of **John Braehour Gunn**. His younger sister was **Barbara Gunn** see pages 15-16. His younger brother was **Captain Alexander Gunn**, see pages 17-22.*

14. John Gunn of Durness was born in 1808 in Halkirk Parish, Caithness. He married Catherine Gunn in Campster, daughter of John Gunn in Dyke and Catherine Gunn, on 8 June 1836 in Caithness.[16] He was the Land Steward at Durness. He and Catherine Gunn were on the census of 30 March 1851.[17] He wrote to his nephew Donald in Australia on 3 April 1856, 13 November 1863 and 12 February 1864 and probably at other times. He died 10 January 1885 in Durness, Sutherland, aged 77.[18] He was buried in the Old Cemetery, Balnakeil, Durness, Sutherland. Catherine Gunn was born circa 1817 in Reay Parish, Caithness. She died on 14 October 1871 in Durness, Sutherland, age 55, informant was her son-in-law Torquil Nicholson.



Part of the memorial to John Gunn and his family at the Old Cemetery at Balnakeil, near Durness, 2011.

[16] Parish Register - Death, Wick Parish Register - 1835(6) - Marriage: John Gunn, farmer in Brawlbin, Parish of Reay; Catherine Gunn in Campster; witnesses Alexander Gunn, farmer, Brawlbin for the man; Donald Gunn, farmer, Brawlbin for the son.

[17] Census 30 March 1851: John Gunn born Reay age 46, Catherine Gunn born Reay age 34, Margaret born Reay age 10, Donald born Reay age 6.

[18] Text reads: In loving memory of John Gunn Land Steward Durness who died 10th Jany 1885 aged 77 years. Also Catherine Gunn his Spouse who died 14th Octr 1871 aged 55 years. Also their Sons John Gunn Inland Revenue Officer who died at Comber Ireland 9th January 1861 aged 23 years and interred there. Donald Gunn Teacher who died 21st Jany 1864 aged 20 years. Also their Daughters Johan [Gunn] who died 11th Octr 1868 aged 13 years. Barbara [Gunn] who died 3rd Novr 1905 aged 58 years. Catherine [Gunn] who died 3rd April 1907 aged 56 Erected by their Son Alexander [Gunn].

The Old Cemetery at Balnakeil, near Durness, 2011; the Gunn monument is on the right.

Children of John Gunn in Durness and Catherine Gunn were –

i. John Gunn, born 1837 in Lamesdale, Reay Parish, Caithness and christened 20 June 1837. He died 9 January 1861 in Comber, County Down, at age 23.[19] He was an inland revenue officer.

ii. Margaret Gunn. 1842-1898. Married. Descendants.

iii. Donald Gunn, born 1844 in Brawlbin, Reay Parish, Caithness. He was christened 16 January 1844 in Brawlbin, Reay Parish, Caithness. He died on 21 January 1864 in Durness, aged 20 years. He was buried on 27 January 1864 in Dirlot, Caithness, and his body was carried to Dirlot from Durness to be buried beside his grandfather. He was a teacher.[20] He appeared on the 1851 Census.[21]

iv. Barbara Gunn, born 1847 in Carriside, Reay Parish, Caithness. She was christened 28 January 1847 in Carriside, Reay Parish, Caithness. She died on 3 November 1905 aged 58.

v. Catherine Gunn, born on 31 October 1849 in Carriside. She was christened on 2 November 1849 in Carriside. She died on 3 April 1907. She lived with her brother Alexander and family in Durness in 1891 and 1901.

vi. Johan Gunn was born on 19 Jan 1855 in Reay Parish, Caithness. She died 11 Oct 1868.

vii. Alexander Gunn 1859-1945. *The line died out of Gunns in 1975.*

viii. Williamina Gunn. 1859-1950. Married. Descendants.

[19] *John O'Groat Journal*, 24 Jan 1861, At Combes, Co. Down, Ireland, on the 9th inst., Mr John Gunn, Inland Revenue Officer, son of John Gunn Durness, Sutherlandshire, and grandson of the late Mr Donald Gunn, tacksman, Brawlbin, who died on the 3d inst; Balnakeil Cemetery: Text reads: In loving memory of John Gunn Land Steward Durness who died 10th Jany 1885 aged 77 years. Also Catherine Gunn his Spouse who died 14th Octr 1871 aged 55 years. Also their Sons John Gunn Inland Revenue Officer who died at Comber Ireland 9th January 1861 aged 23 years and interred there. Donald Gunn Teacher who died 21st Jany 1864 aged 20 years. Also their Daughters Johan [Gunn] who died 11th Octr 1868 aged 13 years. Barbara [Gunn] who died 3rd Novr 1905 aged 58 years. Catherine [Gunn] who died 3rd April 1907 aged 56 Erected by their Son Alexander [Gunn].

[20] Balnakeil Cemetery: Text reads: In loving memory of John Gunn Land Steward Durness who died 10th Jany 1885 aged 77 years. Also Catherine Gunn his Spouse who died 14th Octr 1871 aged 55 years. Also their Sons John Gunn Inland Revenue Officer who died at Comber Ireland 9th January 1861 aged 23 years and interred there. Donald Gunn Teacher who died 21st Jany 1864 aged 20 years. Also their Daughters Johan [Gunn] who died 11th Octr 1868 aged 13 years. Barbara [Gunn] who died 3rd Novr 1905 aged 58 years. Catherine [Gunn] who died 3rd April 1907 aged 56 Erected by their Son Alexander [Gunn].

[21] UK Census 30 March 1851 John Gunn born Reay age 46, Catherine Gunn born Reay age 34, Margaret born Reay age 10, Donald born Reay age 6.

Barbara Gunn 1810-1844 (granddaughter)

*With father **Donald Braehour and Brawlbin Gunn** 1765-1861, being a son of **John Braehour Gunn.** His elder brother was **John Gunn of Durness,** see the preceding biography. Her younger brother **was Captain Alexander Gunn**, see pages 17-22.*

The second child and first girl of Donald Braehour and Brawlbin and Catherine Osclay Gunn was Barbara Gunn. She was christened on 30 March 1810 in Halkirk Parish, Caithness, but her husband's family Bible records her birth date as 17 April 1810.[22] She married Alexander Gunn of Bualchork and Brawlbin, son of Donald Gunn in Tormsdale and Janet MacKenzie of Dunbeath, on 19 March 1829 in Halkirk Parish, Caithness.[23] Biographies of **Sir John Gunn of Tormsdale** and his brother **Marcus Gunn,** being her husband's nephews, can be found in the Appendices, see pages 91-94 and 95-99. She and Alexander Gunn of Bualchork and Brawlbin appeared on the census of 6 June 1841 in Brawlbin, Caithness.[24]

Barbara died on 28 February 1844 at Brawlbin, Caithness, aged 33.[25]

Alexander Gunn of Bualchork and Brawlbin was born on 4 June 1789 in Halkirk Parish, Caithness.[26] He was christened on 9 June 1789 in Halkirk Parish[27] and died 29 March 1847 in Brawlbin at age 57.[28] With the early death of both Barbara and Alexander it put great pressure on their son **Donald Gunn of Brawlbin and Ballarat**, see pages 41-78. Donald was born in 1832 so took over as Head of the Family aged 15 years old. He had two sisters – Catherine[29] 1830-1912 (see the pages relating to **Donald Gunn of Brawlbin and Ballarat**, and pages 87-91 concerning **James Miller** who was Catherine's husband) and Janet (1834-1912). He also had two brothers John (1836-1854) and William (1839-1860).

Bualchork is no longer recorded, even in Ordnance Survey maps, but Bullechach Farm is close to Tormsdale, Dirlot and Braehour and is probably Alexander's birth location.

[22] *Bible of Alexander Gunn*: my wife, Barbra Gunn born April 17 1810. Parish Register – Baptism Halkirk Parish Register. 1810 Gunn Barbara lawful daughter of Donald Gunn and Catherine Gunn in Braehour was baptised 30th March. Elizabeth Tait there and Donald Murray, Olgrinmore Witnesses.

[23] *LDS Church*, Marriage, Alexander Gunn, Barbara Gunn, 19 Mar 1829, Halkirk, Caithness; Parish Records: Marriages 1829 - Alexander of Bualchork married Barbara Gunn of Braehour.

[24] UK Census 06 June 1841: District of Brawlbin lying in the south part of the Parish of Reay. Each person who abode in each house on night of 6 June 1841: Alexander Gunn 50 farmer; Barbara Gunn 30; Kathrine Gunn 11; Donald Gunn 9; John Gunn 5; Janet Gunn 7; William Gunn 2; all born in Caithness. Note: Census instructions for recording age were that if under 15, actual age; if over 15, record to the nearest 5 years below actual ie Alexander Gunn was between 50 and 55 and Barbara between 30 and 35 on 6 June 1841. Birth years are thus Alexander 1786-1791 and Barbara 1806-1811.

[25] *Bible of Alexander Gunn*: died on the 28th February 1844.

[26] *LDS Church*, christenings at Halkirk, Caithness, of children born to Donald Gunn and Janet McKenzie: John 18 January 1783 and Hugh 7 January 1787, with Alexander 9 June 1789, Donald 19 March 1796, William 12 March 1799, Christian 30 January 1802, Marcus 9 August 1805 further described as born at Halkirk; *Bible of Alexander Gunn*.

[27] Parish Register: Alexander lawful son of Donald Gunn and Janet Mackenzie in Tormsdale was baptised the ninth day of June seventeen hundred and eighty nine. John Gunn and Catherine McDonald in Bridgend, Witnesses. Halkirk 25th March 1817. Extracted from the Register of Baptisms of the Parish of Halkirk, County of Caithness, by Donald Grant, S. Clk.

[28] *Bible of Alexander Gunn*: Alexr Gunn was born 1789 and did on 29 Mar 1847.

[29] Catherine was the oldest child but she did not take over as head of the family – documents held by the author make this quite clear.

Bullechach farm, 2011

Alexander thought of emigrating to Jamaica in 1819. He was a shoemaker. He was a manager of the Loyal and United Benevolent Society of the Clan Gunn when it was formed on 18 December 1821 in Thurso Parish, Caithness.[30] He was a farmer after 1828 in Brawlbin, Reay Parish, Caithness. He entered into a 14 year lease of Brawlbin farm for £16 an acre on 30 June 1834. He witnessed the marriage of John Gunn in Durness and Catherine Gunn in Campster on 8 June 1836 in Caithness.[31]

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[30] Thomas Sinclair, *The Gunns*, p174; The Loyal and United Benevolent Society of the Clan Gunn, instituted at Thurso, 18th December, 1821.

[31] Parish Register, Wick Parish - 1835(6) - Marriage: John Gunn, farmer in Brawlbin, Parish of Reay; Catherine Gunn in Campster; witnesses Alexander Gunn, farmer, Brawlbin for the man; Donald Gunn, farmer, Brawlbin for the son.

Captain Alexander Gunn, Braehour 1814-1900 (grandson)

Captain Alexander Gunn *was the second son and third child of* ***Donald Gunn of Braehour and Brawlbin****, who was a son of* ***John Braehour Gunn****. His elder brother was* ***John Gunn of Durness*** *see pages 13-14. His elder sister was* ***Barbara Gunn****, see the previous biography.*

Alexander Gunn[32] of Braehour and Newton was born in 1814 in Braehour, Halkirk Parish, Caithness.[33] He was christened 23 April 1814 and married Mary Innes Campbell, daughter of Peter Campbell and Catherine Innes, in April 1841 in Caithness.[34] Mary (Margaret) Innes Campbell was born in 1808 in Reay Parish, Caithness and was christened 12 December 1808. Alexander was the informant at the death of his wife on 5 September 1864 at Braehour, Halkirk Parish, Caithness.

Alexander was an important Clan Gunn genealogist and historian with his material now stored at 'Nucleus: The Nuclear and Caithness Archive in Wick.' He died on 3 January 1900 in Thurso aged 85, the informant at death was his niece Jessie Mackenzie of Killimister, Wick.

He appeared on the census of 6 June 1841 in the household of his parents **Donald** and Catherine at Brawlbin, Reay Parish, Caithness.[35] Alexander and his wife also appeared on the census of 30 March 1851 at Brawlbin. Alexander was a corn merchant by 1851.

He witnessed the marriage of John Mackay and Mary / Margaret Gunn on 14 February 1860 in Brawlbin, Reay Parish. Mary was his younger sister. Mary and John had one son, Hector Mackay but he had no issue. Alexander appeared on the census of 1891 in the household of this nephew Hector Mackay and Mary, presumably his mother

Alexander was a farmer of 600 acres in 1861. He was the informant at the death of his father **Donald Gunn** (the sennachie) of Braehour and Brawlbin on 3 January 1861 in Brawlbin, Reay Parish, Caithness; **Donald** died of a fractured neck.

Alexander became Captain of the Halkirk Rifle Corps Volunteers on 22 September 1866 following a War Office announcement. This was part of the Caithness Corps. In 1881 the Corps was reorganized into the Seaforth Highlanders. That was too late for Alexander – he resigned his commission in June 1880.

He was the informant at the death of his mother Catherine Gunn of Osclay on 24 October 1870 in Newton, Watten Parish, Caithness. He appeared on the census of 1871 in Braehour.[36] He became bankrupt around 1880. He appeared on the census of 1881 in Bridge Street, Halkirk, Halkirk Parish.[37]

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[32] 'He was a 'notable antiquarian', p. 45 *The Sinclairs of Roslin, Caithness, and Goshen* however he could be 'very secretive' p. 2 M. Rugg Gunn *History of the Clan Gunn.*

[33] Census 30 March 1851: Alexander Gunn born Braehour age 39, Mary aka Margaret Campbell born Reay age 36, Williamina age 8, Barbara age 6, Peter age 4, Catherine age 2; Chart from Colin Gunn.

[34] *John O'Groat Journal*, 24 Jan 1861, Friday 16 Apr 1841; Gunn, Alexander: Brawlbin to Mary Campbell: Reay.

[35] UK Census 06 June 1841: District of Brawlbin lying in the south part of the Parish of Reay. Each person who abode in each house on night of 6 June 1841: Donald Gunn 72 farmer; Kathrine Gunn 60; Alexander Gunn 26; Mary Gunn 26; Margaret Gunn 22; Alexandrina Gunn 18; all born in Caithness; together with George Gunn 80 servant, George Gunn servant 22 and three other servants. Note: Census instructions for recording age were that if under 15, actual age; if over 15, record to the nearest 5 years below.

[36] UK Census 1871: Alexr Gunn 56 farmer 600 acres; Williamina Gunn 26; 3 servants.

[37] UK Census 1881: Alexr Gunn 66 widower retired farmer; Catherine Campbell 35 general servant.

Children of Alexander Gunn and Mary Innes Campbell, all born in Reay Parish, Caithness, were:

i. Catherine Gunn who was christened on 8 February 1842 and died before 1849.
ii. Williamina Gunn. She married James Clark (of Castle Borve?) with children Mary B., Alexander B. and William B.[38]
iii. Barbara Gunn was born in 1844 and christened on 30 November 1844. She died on 13 February 1879 in 109 Lowan Street, Glasgow, Lanarkshire. She appeared on the census of 30 March 1851 in the household of her parents Alexander Gunn and Mary Innes Campbell of Brawlbin, Reay Parish, Caithness.[39] She also appeared on the census of 30 March 1861 in the household of her parents.[40] She witnessed the marriage of John Scott and Catherine Gunn on 18 June 1873 in Inverness, see her sister, two people below, v. Catherine Innes Gunn.[41] Barbara's usual residence was at Braehour, Halkirk Parish, Caithness. She died in 1874, unmarried.
iv. Peter Gunn who was born in 1846. He was christened on 10 September 1846 in Reay Parish, Caithness. He appeared on the census of 30 March 1851 in the household of Alexander Gunn and Mary Innes Campbell in Brawlbin, Reay Parish, Caithness. He appeared on the census of 30 March 1861 in the household of his parents Alexander and Mary in Halkirk Parish, Caithness. He emigrated to Australia, date unknown. He is not listed as dead in the 1896 Clan Gunn Family Tree drawn up by his father but the Tree is drawn with his branch broken, probably to indicate he died. No other records for him have been found.
v. Catherine Innes Gunn married John Scott and had seven children including Unknown born 1874, John born 1875, Alexander born 1877, Charles born 1879, William born 1881, Patrick born 1887 and Wallis.[42]
vi. Robertina Gunn who was born in 1852. She was christened on 16 April 1852 in Reay Parish, Caithness. She died in 1872. She appeared on the 1871 census of Dundee Poor House and Lunatic Asylum, Dundee, Angus, in the household of her uncle Donald Gunn of Brawlbin and Dundee who ran the Poor House / Asylum and aunt Alexandrina (Lexy) Gunn of Braehour.[43] Letters to Australia exist from them.

[38] Source: Clan Gunn 1896 Family Tree drawn up by Captain Alexander Gunn so he should know who his daughter married and who his grandchildren were. See https://www.flickr.com/photos/199463589@N07/53309167369/in/dateposted-public/

[39] UK Census 30 March 1851: Brawlbin, Reay, Caithness: Alexander Gunn corn merchant born Braehour age 36, Mary aka Margaret Campbell born Reay age 36, Williamina age 8, Barbara age 6, Peter age 4, Catherine age 2.

[40] UK Census 30 March 1861: Alexr Gunn 46 farmer 600 acres; Mary Gunn 48; Williamina Gunn 17; Barbara Gunn 15; Peter Gunn 13; Catherine Gunn 11; Robertina Gunn 9.

[41] Unknown translator, John Scott, contractor, age 25, Angus, married Catherine Gunn age 24, Braehour in the Parish of Halkirk on 18 June 1873 in Inverness. Witnesses were William Scott and Barbara Gunn.

[42] From the 1896 Clan Gunn family Tree drawn by Captain Alexander Gunn so the mentioned are his child, his son-in-law and his grandchildren.

[43] Census 1871: Donald Gunn head age 53 born Halkirk Governor; Alexandrina Gunn wife age 44 born Halkirk; John Gunn son age 17 Apprentice Druggist; Daniel A Gunn son age16 born Dundee Apprentice Merch. Clerk; Margaret Gunn dau. age 12 born Dundee Scholar; Catherine Gunn dau. age 10 born Dundee Scholar; Wilhelmina Gunn dau. age 5 born Dundee Scholar; Robertina Gunn niece age 18 born Dundee Matron's Asst.

From *The Gunns* by Thomas Sinclair, published 1890

The following is from The Gunns *by Thomas Sinclair which is the first published Clan Gunn history. It provides a summary of how the Braehour Gunns descend from the Clan Gunn Chief line.*

But first see towards the bottom of page 6 in this text – the 'Chiefs of the Clan Gunn' chart. The key person in this extract is ***Captain Gunn of Braehour*** *who is central to the information.*

I have paragraphed and added commentary to the extract to increase clarity.

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… a living chief *(exists of the Clan Gunn)* in the nephew *(see page 14, vii. Alexander Gunn 1859-1945. His line died out of Gunns in 1975.)* of **Captain Gunn, Braehour**...

(The next paragraph is background on the legal Clan Gunn Chiefs of the 1800s)
Hector Gunn, Thurso, who was married to Janet, daughter of Robert Mackay, Clibrig, died in 1803, the year of his being returned heir of the chieftaincy. His son George, Lieutenant of the Royal Navy, factor for the Duke of Sutherland, married Margaret, a daughter of Macdonald of Skeabost or Kingsborough, Skye, and was served heir in 1814. He died in 1859. His eldest son was Donald, a factor in Cornwall, who died without issue in 1863, chieftain four years. An only brother, Hector of the unfortunate Agra Bank, succeeded him, but he also died without issue in 1874. These two McHamishes *(Chiefs)* do not seem to have taken the trouble and expense of serving themselves heirs. …

Captain Gunn traces his nephew back to … Alexander Gunn, Dalnaglaton**,** who died in 1765 *(who was the younger brother to the above Chief Hector Gunn, Thurso, who was married to Janet, daughter of Robert Mackay, Clibrig)*. His son **John, Braehour,** died in 1810. **Donald, Braehour and Brawlbin**, who died in 1861, was John's son and successor. Donald's eldest son was **John of Durness,** whose son Alexander is chieftain of the clan Gunn. Alexander's heirship goes back to the same McHamish as that of Hector Gunn, Thurso, did in 1803; the latter's *abavus* or great-great grandfather, their common ancestor. "Hector Gunn, Thurso, and my grandfather," Captain Gunn says, "were first cousins;" their fathers, George … and Alexander, Dalnaglaton, being brothers… Pp. 175-176

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Thomas Sinclair, now directly commenting-

It is said that *(the above)* Alexander Gunn, Durness, clever, handsome, and well-to-do, has not asserted his rights as the real living McHamish, and chief of the clan, because he is only a subordinate official of the Duke of Sutherland. As ground-officer in his district, his modesty forbids him to assume the headship; but if fortune should further favour him, he would push to be returned heir to Factor Gunn's son, the last McHamish. Such diffidence is wholly unnecessary; for in the palmy days of the clan system it was the glory of a chief to have no property in land or goods, these belonging to the whole clan, who contributed to the sustentation of their leader, as Free Church and other congregations do now to that of their ministers. The chivalry of Celtic society lay precisely in this fact; and any modern Gunn who would object to his chief on the ground of not drawing thousands a year from land or from stocks or other investments, is out of court, as an ignorant and a Philistine.

More promising credentials than Alexander's it would be difficult to desire. His uncle, **Captain Gunn, Braehour**, now seventy-six, is admitted to be, if not the greatest, at least a genuine, living authority on Gunn questions; and he is thoroughly assured of his nephew's being the rightful McHamish and chieftain. It were strange if the captain had not been well posted up in all historic points, seeing that his father, **Donald Gunn, Braehour**, was the acknowledged Sennachie or historian of his time, and that from him he has derived most of his traditional and other knowledge. So much had the Braehours been accepted, that Factor Gunn's son, that last McHamish, before his death, sent to **Captain Gunn**, as one of his nearest relatives, all the papers on the subject which he possessed ... It is worth adding the as **Donald Gunn'**s mother was May, a daughter of Dunbar of Hempriggs, he had thus interest and insight with respect to the ruling families as well as the Gunns, of which he took full advantage as an unusually learned Sennachie. Since it is to be hoped that the pedigree of Alexander in Durness will soon be submitted to public legal decision, it is unnecessary to state here the ample collateral details which exist, the persons of the main succession having been given. That there is no fear of failure of heirs to the chieftaincy in this branch may be gathered from the fact that the **Hon. Donald Gunn**, Manitoba, Canada, **Captain Gunn's** first cousin, and Alexander in Durness's, once removed, has himself seven or eight sons; and there are others, in Australia and elsewhere, of similar condition.

Pp. 185-186

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Some key Clan Gunn Family Trees and documents.

They came from the family of Captain Alexander Gunn -

- An 1822 letter accompanying an 1822 Clan Gunn Chief family Tree.
  See https://www.flickr.com/photos/199463589@N07/53308802481/in/dateposted-public/
- The 1822 Clan Gunn Chief Family Tree.
  See https://www.flickr.com/photos/199463589@N07/53307937552/in/dateposted-public/
- The very important 1896 Clan Gunn Family Tree.
  See https://www.flickr.com/photos/199463589@N07/53309167369/in/dateposted-public/
- The 1919 New Hebrides Clan Gunn Chief Family Tree, being mainly of use for Badbea Gunns and Watten Gunns. See https://www.flickr.com/photos/199463589@N07/53307931912/in/dateposted-public/

Adventures of an Eagle in Search of Prey

A narrative presumably concerning Alexander Gunn

A few days ago, while several dogs and a lot of ravens were enjoying a feast on the carcass of a horse at Braehour, they were suddenly disturbed by the presence of a fine large eagle, at whose appearance the dogs ran off and the ravens flew away, one of the latter carrying off a portion of the entrails, part being swallowed. The raven being unable either to separate or disgorge her booty, she had to fly away with about half a yard dangling from her mouth. The eagle observing this, immediately gave chase, and soon after succeeded in seizing hold of the end of the piece, and in dragging both it and the raven to the ground, on reaching which he struck and killed the raven, and soon after made a meal of it and the carrion, returning towards the carcase. In the meantime, however, two of the dogs had returned, and possession being nine points of law, they growled defiance at the invader, and prepared to defend their rights. The eagle, bent on obtaining possession, for a short time hovered near to the spot, and suddenly descending gave the dogs two blows with its wings and expelled them. It fed for a short time, and then flew off with a large piece of carrion, which it deposited on a distant eminence, thereafter descending into the neighbouring loch, and enjoying a bath with evident relish. This, however, did not finish the eagle's adventures of the day. After slowly rising out of the loch, it descended upon a flock of sheep and lambs, and carried off in its talons a young lamb from the stock of Mr. Gunn, Braehour, disappearing on the top of Dorrery. Mr. Gunn, having observed the theft, gave chase, accompanied, strange to say, by the ewe whose lamb had been taken away. Whether the mother had observed the direction the eagle took, or merely followed Mr. Gunn after being deprived of its lamb, it is impossible to say: but it is certainly singular that she should have, at once, without invitation, accompanied him in the chase after her young one. On arriving at the top of Dorrery, the eagle was observed resting, while the lamb was skipping about uninjured. The eagle maintained its position until Mr. Gunn was within fifty yards of it, when it took its flight; and Mr. Gunn, with ewe and lamb, returned to Braehour, the lamb being none the worse for its aerial voyage in the talons of the eagle. [44]

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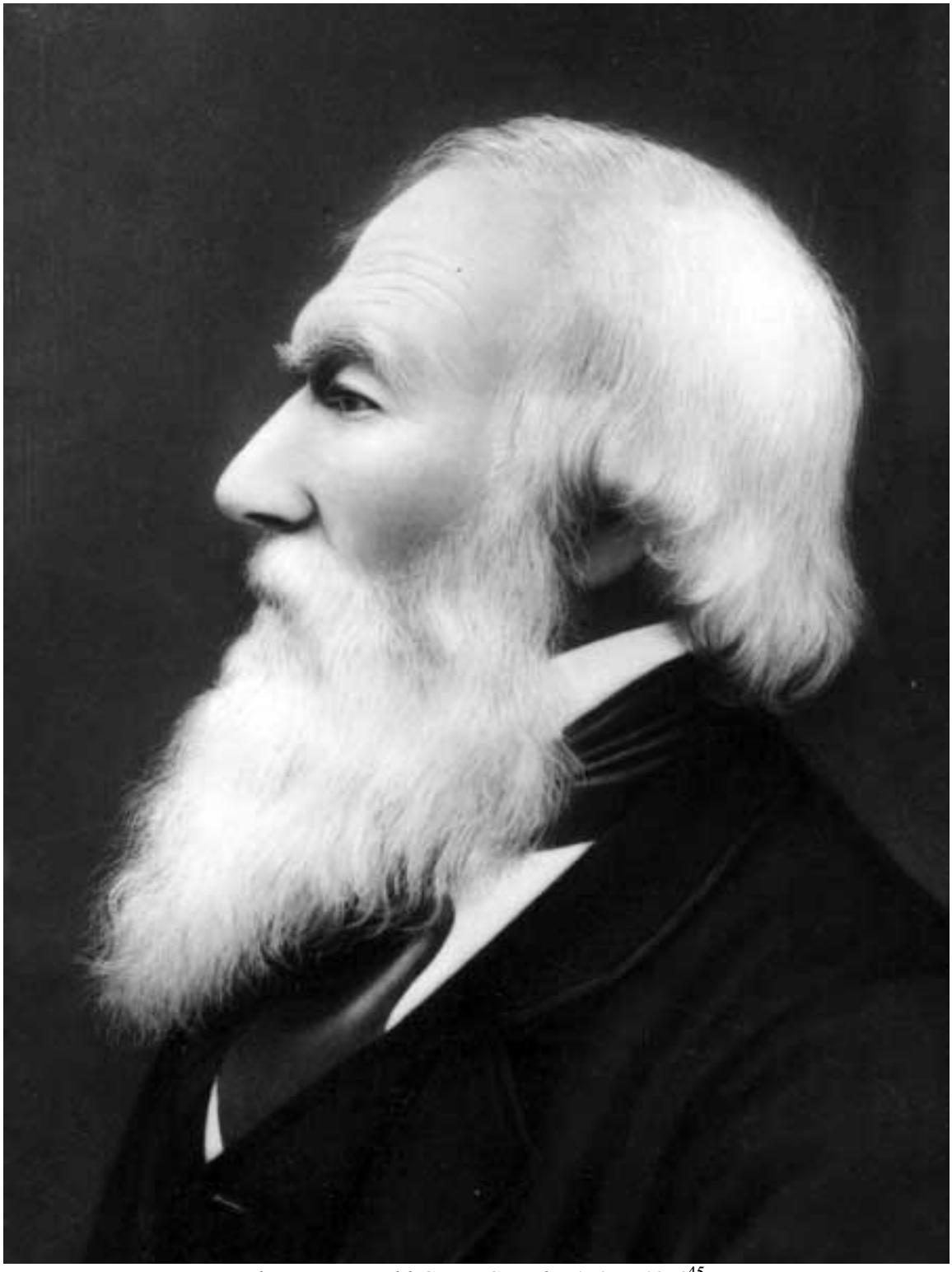
[44] Being from page 306, *The Boy's Miscellany; An Illustrated Journal of Useful and Entertaining Literature for Youth Vol. 1.*



the Hon. Donald Gunn, Canada, 1797 - 1878[45]

[45] Baptism: June 10, 1798, Halkirk, Caithness, Scotland (Source: Halkirk Christenings, Batch \#C11037-4 Ser\# 01255-1.)
Burial: Little Britain Cemetery, St. Andrews, Manitoba, Canada. (Source: (1) Headstone in Cemetery., (2) *Joyce Anaka Family History Book*., (3) Little Britain United Church Cemetery Transcripts.) Census: 1838, Manitoba Red River Settlement Elected: Bet. 1871 - 1876, Legislative Council (Source: *Joyce Anaka Family History Book*.) Immigration: June 28, 1813, Stromness, Scotland aboard the Eddystone (Source: *Joyce Anaka Family History Book*, page 6.) Occupation: Aft. 1822, Farmer (Source: *Joyce Gunn Anaka Family History Book*.) Retirement: 1822, Freeman from Hudson's Bay Company (Source: Hudson Bay Company Archives, Donald Gunn Bio Sheet.) His entry in the Dictionary of Canadian Biography can be found at http://www.biographi.ca/en/bio/gunn_donald_10E.html.

Hon. Donald Gunn, Manitoba, Canada, 1797-1878 (grandson)

Hon. Donald Gunn, *Manitoba, Canada, 1797-1878 father was William Braehour Gunn who was a son of* ***John Braehour Gunn****. Therefore, Donald is a grandson of John Braehour Gunn. Donald was an older half-brother to* ***William Gunn of Waranga,*** *Victoria, Australia whose biography follows.*

Donald Gunn[46] (September 1797–30 November 1878) was a Manitoba politician and member of the Province's Legislative Council (which he helped to abolish).

Gunn was born in Orkney, Scotland, in 1797. He worked in the Canadian North West for the Hudson's Bay Company between 1813 and 1823, and was subsequently a Judge on the Court of Petty Sessions in Red River. He also wrote for the Smithsonian Institution[47] and the Institute of Rupert's Land, and was a member of the Board of Management for Manitoba College (a Presbyterian institution).

Gunn was a supporter of Canadian Confederation and the Government of Adams George Archibald. In Manitoba's first general election (27 December 1870), he ran against Provincial Secretary and fellow Archibald-supporter Alfred Boyd. He was defeated by 58 votes to 28.

Gunn was appointed to the Province's new Legislative Council on 15 March 1871, one of seven members. In 1876, he supported the decision of the Robert A. Davis government to abolish the institution.

Donald Gunn died in 1878.

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And for a fulsome, Victorian phrased, life—

SKETCH OF THE LIFE of the late HON. DONALD GUNN[48]; *author presumably C.R. Tuttle*

Prominently one whose scholarly instinct was of a verity a part of his nature, the author of the History of which this brief notice is a prefix, Donald Gunn, was born in the Parish of Halkirk in the County of Caithness, Scotland, in the year 1797, and sprang from that strong and fertile class of peasant farmers whose health of body and mind-nurtured in the frugal simplicity of their native hill—has furnished so many worthy sons to the stout old land that gave them birth. A land whose scant nurture and limited scope, while it conserves so much, yet breeds a necessity enriching other shores than those of the rugged peninsula stretching its rocky arm into the wild northern seas, sending out, from time to time, to the great unoccupied spaces her colonizing children, who achieve by virtue of inherent and trained qualities—that stand them ever instead—a success second to none, if equaled by any.

Of the children of the tenant of the old farm house in the strath of Braehour[49], two furnish worth proof of this fact, an elder son[50] seeking at an early day his fortune in the wilds of Australia, becoming in due course of time one of the largest wool growers and sheep farmers in the colony: the other, the subject of our memoir, who turning his face to the west, wrought out amid the ice and snow of the northern land, not only fair fortune but an honored name.

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[46] http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Donald_Gunn reproduced under license see http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/3.0/

[47] Smithsonian Institution, *Annual report*, *1878* (Washington), 63–64. Donald Gunn, "Indian remains near Red River settlement, Hudson's bay territory," Smithsonian Institution, *Annual report*, *1867* (Washington), 399–100*;* "Notes of an egging expedition to Shoal lake, west of lake Winnipeg. Made under the direction of the Smithsonian Institution in 1867 . . ."

[48] Being from Donald Gunn and C. R. Tuttle, *History of Manitoba* from the *earliest settlement to 1835 by the late Hon. Donald Gunn*, *and from the admission of the province into the Dominion* by *Charles R. Tuttle* (Ottawa, 1880).

[49] Wrongly entered as Braeholme which has caused confusion in a few Canadian texts.

[50] Probably meaning **William Gunn of Waranga** Victoria Australia 1804 – 1888 – a younger half-brother of Donald's. See the following biography. The two males older than Donald Gunn have known birth dates only and no other information.

It was in the Parish School of Halkirk that the blue-eyed, fair haired Scotch lad first mastered the mystic signs that were to prove to him in after years, such unvarying delight. Here the speech of the Hills took precedence, and the Gaelic (the tongue the Scotsmen fondly boast contains all others) found an apt and loving pupil; one who the latest years of his life knew no poet king save Ossian, no loftier flight than that of the strong wing of the early Scottish bard, whose bold imaginings conned by the boy on the mist clad heights of the tempestuous shore, resonant with the mighty music of the sea, found quick interpretation, and were framed kindred elevation, leaving a picture no time could fade.

Secondary, came the alien English—the strange classic spoken by the Southerns—that lent dignity to the little school-house, whose curriculum boasted these two alone, yet in themselves an education holding all of flexibility and power that written or spoken thought demands, an equipment, seeming slender, in reality full of pith.

Happily for the boy, the hills and valley, the storm and sunshine on the heather-clad braes, the glory and changeful lights of his mountain, sea grit home, these too were his teachers. Here following the herds, or watching the browsing, wandering sheep, he drank in a tranquil strength he little wot of, received the silent benison of nature, knitting together the robust tissues that make life a harmony, a forceful quietude, breeding strength for cheerful essay of all tasks, admirably fitted for the one that now came quickly to his youthful hand.

The Hudson's Bay Company, who had depots and shipping ports on the neighbouring islands, had long been in the habit of mainly recruiting their force of servants among the hardy, frugal people in the north of Scotland and the Orkney Isles. Their ships were the 'argosies' that freighted fortunes from the distant shores of Hudson's Bay; and their ships were to the simple youth of the coast—wearied with an unremunerative toil that held no future—the brave craft that would bear them to a better fate. The slender stipend promised seemingly, by home comparison, large indeed.

Young Donald, now some sixteen summers, urged by such thoughts, and a love of wandering that seems instinctive at a certain period of life, aware of the large number of families being sent out by the Earl of Selkirk, engaged with the local agent, and in the year of grace, 1813, found himself duly enrolled as servant of the great fur trading company, and bound for York Factory, on Hudson's Bay, in company with the Pilgrim Fathers of the North-West, now widely known as the Selkirk Settlers.[51]

The future historian will yet linger over the pages of this volume, in seeking to portray anew the story of these people. No record of colonial life is more affecting than the tearful embarkation of these cottagers, their hardships at the bay, and the culminating and dreadful distresses in which they and their helpless families were plunged on their arrival at the Red River, caused by their miserable and unexpected involvement in the deadly strife and murderous competition of the two great rival companies, their own protectors and the wild half-savage men of the "North-West"

The suffering is so real and persistent, their patience so admirable, their helpless acceptance of the most grievous situation so simple and unostentatious, that it hardly seems real; deepening our sympathy and admiration as we look upon the picture of to-day, the smiling farms of their children and descendants, where plenty and peace brood over the spot fraught to their progenitors with terror, flight and distress.

[51] Note taken from Hudson's Bay Company Archives**;** Donald is described in 1814-1815 as with "dark brown hair, strong, well made", but "desires to return home".

The life of a "Company man'—in the phrase of the country—is either fraught with incident or entirely uneventful, being simply a matter of locality. "The Severn District", abutting upon, "the Bay," in which Mr. Gunn passed his ten years of service, was the natural stronghold of the Hudson's Bay men, peopled by peaceful, inoffensive Indians, and productive of no marked event, while at the same time the plains to the west—as is seen in this narrative—were, with the Red River Country, the theatre of a warfare so fatal to the contestants as to impel the coalition of the great rivals, the North-West Company being merged into that of the Hudson's Bay in the year 1821.

But the time, to a man of Mr. Gunn's energetic character, and thirst for knowledge, was not—if barren of event—unprofitably spent. His vicinity to the great depot of the north, and his early promotion to the position of a lesser postmaster, threw him continually into the society of the leading men of the Company, from whose conversation he derived a great store of exact information touching the past and contemporaneous history of the great governing Corporation. He was also enabled to acquire, by loan or purchase, books, and the digest of his acquisitions at his period, as shown in conversation and reminiscences in after years, was of singular fullness and value. An immense amount of local character detail of the most unique and interesting description has by his decease, been forever lost to the lesser records of our colonial history, a loss as great to us in the future as would have been the early destruction of "Pepys' Diary" to the English people.

The year 1819 was to Mr. Gunn alike a memorable and happy one, he then marrying Margaret, the eldest daughter of James Swain, Esquire, the officer in charge of the York District, a union blessed and fortunate in every respect—one unbroken for a period of fifty years.

That the newly married couple were in no danger of being at the time of their marriage enervated by luxury, Mr. Gunn would, with a keen recollection of the time and their freedom from care and grief, amusingly relate. In addition to the usual allowance of small stores, their outfit of meats and breadstuffs was more suggestive than real, consisting of a "flint trade gun," ammunition, and twine for nets. The hardship was but in seeming, game and fish abounded, Indian and traders alike resorted to their well stocked "preserves" for subsistence, and, possibly, the jaded epicures of the city would have envied the young couple their keen enjoyment of their woodland fare.

A deprivation more felt was at times when in recent possession of a treasured book, to be without candles or oil, when thinly split pitch pine fagots would light up the house, drag from their shadowy coverts the finest print, and convert the snug log dwelling, nestled in evergreens, into a hall of learning, where each recurring page folded down and conserved satisfactions remembered through life.

It being found inexpedient by the Hudson's Bay Company after the absorption of the North-West, to maintain so large a force as the united employees of the late Company and its own, certain reductions were determined upon, and Mr. Gunn gladly availed himself of the opportunity to retire. With his wife and newly born son, he followed his old friends, the "Selkirk Settlers," to the Red River, settling in what is now the Parish of St. Andrews, but which he and a few friends of certainly ambitious loyalty for the time, named "Little Britain," scarce for seeing that their tiny speck of civilization would ripen so quickly, and assure here and to the west a "Greater Britain."

The locality chosen, however, proved to be a good one, and drew about it a more than usually intelligent class of "freemen," as the retired servants of the Company were called; among them Mr. William Smith, and English worthy full of strong, honest points, one of the most genial and humorous of men, who had also married a daughter of Mr. Swain, and was after appointed Secretary to the Council of Assiniboia and Clerk of the Local Courts, an office which he held until his death.

Happily for the new farmers, these were the halcyon days of the hunters. Buffalo were near and plenty, the net was ever in the water, sturgeon and "gold eyes" daily fare. Without ploughs, tools or cattle, their first attempts at agriculture were of the rudest description; putting down wheat with a hoe, the quantity of seed is not hard to surmise, yet from such a beginning ere many years—aided by his stout sons—spacious stone house with ample stabling for the large stock of horses and horned animals, and abundant grain, made the homestead of Donald Gunn one of the foremost in the entire settlement, one whose abundance made glad many a luckless soul.

After an interval of ten years spent in active farming, Mr. Gunn found himself, by the increasing size and usefulness of his large family so relieved from personal attention to the farm, that he was enabled to take charge of the Parish School established, and, with the exception of the very slight contributions of the parents, supported by the Mission Society of the English Church.

This task, one held in the highest honor and respect in those primitive days—to the shame of our own diminished and unwise estimate be it spoken—was one so congenial to his taste, that, fortunately for the youth of both sexes in his charge, it was continued without intermission by him for the long period of eighteen years.

A period of usefulness in one of the highest and most responsible functions possible to an individual, one which while training others had disciplined and fitted for distinction many of our best thinkers and actors in the world of statecraft and of letters.

This was, in the case of Mr. Gunn, very distinctly avouched, not only in the career of numbers of his pupils who attained to positions of public trust and honor, but even more certainly, if less marked, in the sustained life impress made upon all, intelligence bearing fruit by many a fireside, unseen rivulets trained to fertilize and make glad an otherwise barren field.

Had the classes in charge of Mr. Gunn been fired with the same student ardor—simple and pure love of knowledge for its own sake—as their teacher, his task, always an arduous one, would have been slight indeed. Its compensation lay in the fact that he was at least at the Centre of all literary lore in the North-West, in contact with such varied and sufficient printed erudition as made him more than content.

When, later, made custodian and librarian in his own house of the only public collection of books in the country, he was fairly environed with satisfaction, each tome a silent friend.

The spacious stone farm-house to which we have adverted, was always the hospitable home, alike of the purposeless tourist or the wandering Savant who sought its well known doors in search of special facts in the physical geography or natural history of the vast terra incognita of which the Red River settlement was the threshold.

At Donald Gunn's, the stranger found not only the warmth of a home, but an intelligence which threw light on all detail of purposed travel and entered into and discussed every them of scientific research.

The personal characteristics of Mr. Gunn were of the most engaging character. In an intercourse of nearly twenty years we fail to recall other than the most genial and unaffected cordiality to all; super added to this, his varied powers of conversation, replete with valuable matter gathered from all sources, his sense of humor lighting up old Gaelic lore, the traditions of the Viking race from whom he sprung, the rough adventures and eccentricities of the hero worthies of "the trade" the early and chequered life in the settlement, with a vein of grounded culture running through all, made him to be one of the most companionable and instructive of men.

An Elder in the Kirk for many years, Mr. Gunn's liberality of thought—in this direction—would have been marked were it not for the general charity and largest tolerance universal in the country. Latterly, when he had retired mainly from public affairs, nearly all of Mr. Gunn's time was occupied in the preparation of this history, arranging his collated facts and personal experience with such care and patience as will doubtless cause it to be—as he intended it should be—an authority upon all the matters coming under his hands. Towards the close of his life, his sight failing him, it was his greatest pleasure to have some one read aloud to him from his favorite authors, his mind retaining its force and clearness until a few hours before his death. This occurred on the last day of November, 1878, in his own house, surrounded by his family, the parting being so peaceful as to be literally falling asleep.

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The children of Donald Gunn (Hon.) of Manitoba and Margaret Swain were:

i. William Henry Gunn.
ii. James Gunn.
iii. John Gunn (Hon.) of Manitoba.
iv. Alexander Gunn.
v. Matilda Gunn was born on 20 November 1831 in Lot 163, St Andrews, Manitoba. She married John Atkinson on 29 March 1860 in St Andrews, Manitoba. He was born in 1825.
vi. George Gunn.
vii. Jane Gunn was born on 24 November 1835 in Lot 163, St Andrews, Manitoba. She died on 1 November 1844 in St Andrews, Manitoba, at age 8.
viii. Margaret Gunn.
ix. Donald Gunn.
x. Robert Gunn was born on 08 May 1842 in Lot 163, St Andrews, Manitoba. He died 2 November 1843 in St Andrews, Manitoba.
xi. Janet Gunn.
xii. William Gunn.

Two grandsons of the Hon. Donald Gunn;

Rev. Henry George Gunn 1866-1945 and John J. Gunn[52] 1861-1907.

Being sons of Donald's third son the Hon. John Gunn and Emma Garrioch.

[52] Provisionally identified.

William Gunn of Waranga Park, Victoria, Australia, 1804-1888 (grandson)

*William Gunn's father was William Braehour Gunn who was a son of **John Braehour Gunn**. Therefore William was a grandson of **John Braehour Gunn**. William was a younger half-brother to **Donald Manitoba Gunn** whose biography precedes this one.*

William Gunn of Waranga.[53]

William Gunn was born in 1804 in Halkirk Parish, presumably at home which was the Braehour farm, and was christened on 28 April 1805. His parents were William Gunn in Braehour (1750 - c.1812) and his father's second wife Janet Sinclair. It was also the home of his grandparents, and at least some of uncles, aunts and their families at various times. It seems reasonable to assume that William's early life in rural, isolated, early nineteenth century Caithness was crowded and involved farm work, religion and education. It was a tough environment in which to live.

[53] I believe this image to be of William Gunn. I suspect it came into my possession via his granddaughter Janettie McMillan in the early 1980s. The title of his land in Victoria has varied over time – Waranga, Waranga Park, Waranga Swamp, Gunn's swamp are but some names used. Waranga is roughly in the triangle between the rural towns of Shepparton, Nagambie and Rushworth. Waranga is the local aboriginal word for water.

By adulthood William had left the farm - he was promoted from sheriff-officer to being a messenger-at-arms on 10 November 1837 in Caithness[54] and was still a messenger-at-arms on 6 June 1841 and living at Bridge Street, Wick according to the 1841 census. Basically, such positions were about serving and enforcing court judgments and orders so were 'law and order' positions but not a policeman. Presumably such positions required education, good character, tact and some personal presence.

William married Cecilia Cormack on 26 July 1850 at Aberdeen, Scotland. [55] She was born in 1819 in Wick Parish, Caithness. [56] The census of 30 March 1851 recorded William, his wife and five-month old daughter Margaret (Marnie) living at Willowbank in what is now Wick.[57] William and Cecilia had six children. These were Margaret 1850 – 1929, Janet 1852 – 1888, William the younger 1853 – 1921, Elizabeth 1859-1921, Alexander 1861-1915 and Cecilia 1863-1864. For their life stories see Part 3.

It is unclear exactly when William emigrated leaving his family at home. Given the birth date of 1853[58] for his son (William the younger) then William of Waranga could not have left Scotland before April 1852. His wife Cecilia later emigrated, first class, on the 'Kent' and arrived 23 October 1857 in Victoria with her son William, leaving daughters Margaret and Janet with relatives in Scotland until 1874.[59] Why were the two daughters left behind for so long, especially as William was wealthy? What impact did it have on them?

Cecilia and William's grand-daughter Janettie MacMillan recorded that 'I am also distantly related to the Rev. Peter Gunn … when my grandmother and father arrived out here (Victoria, Australia) in 1857 they stayed with the Rev. Peter Gunn & Mrs Gunn at Campbellfield until grandfather was able to go for them.' The Reverend Peter Gunn is of importance not merely for his religious work in early Victoria but also as his son Aeneas married Jeannie Taylor who achieved real fame as the author Mrs Aeneas Gunn of 'We of the Never-Never'. Thomas Sinclair in his *The Gunns* records some family trees held by Aeneas Gunn of Edinburgh – I have copies of these 1868-1870 Trees which made their way to the Reverend Peter Gunn's family.[60] These Trees suggest strong links to the Braehour Gunns but it is not quite clear how these families merge. Other evidence is also around supporting the link.[61]

One version of why William went to Victoria is recorded by William Watkins Gunn and Marcus Daniel Gunn. They were William's first cousin twice removed being great grandsons of **Donald the sennachie Gunn** and Catherine 'Osclay' Gunn who were discussed in Part 1. William and Marcus's father was **Donald Gunn** who migrated to Victoria, later the Ballarat region, in late December 1854. The Ballarat and Waranga Gunn families certainly knew each other.[62] The story was recorded by William and Marcus when they visited Scotland as part of the 'Australian Scottish Delegation Tour of the Motherland 1928.' It goes -

[54] See https://www.academia.edu/45595274/Hon_Donald_Gunn_of_Manitoba_Canada_1797_1878.
[55] See https://www.academia.edu/45595274/Hon_Donald_Gunn_of_Manitoba_Canada_1797_1878.
[56] See https://www.academia.edu/45595274/Hon_Donald_Gunn_of_Manitoba_Canada_1797_1878.
[57] See https://www.academia.edu/45595274/Hon_Donald_Gunn_of_Manitoba_Canada_1797_1878.
[58] Many places give this date including the Australian Cemetery Index 1808-2007.
[59] See https://www.academia.edu/45595274/Hon_Donald_Gunn_of_Manitoba_Canada_1797_1878.
[60] See page 13, Alastair Gunn *Clan Gunn Family Trees: From Killernan (Clan Gunn Chief) to Corrish, Kinbrace and Osclay Gunns.*
[61] My suspicion is that the link is through a younger brother of Alexander Gunn of Osclay.
[62] Letters written in 1974 exist from Janettie Gunn, William Gunn's granddaughter, where mention is made of knowing the Millers 'in my early days very well'. Catherine Gunn married James Miller - she was the sister of Donald Gunn, they migrated to Australia together. Mention is also made of Janettie meeting the Surman family of Ballarat - Donald had another sister Janet who married John Surman. Janettie had also met Gladys Gunn a couple of times; Gladys was the niece of William Watkins Gunn and Marcus Daniel Gunn, being the daughter of their brother John Alexander Gunn, the noted colonial scientist (he invented an anthrax vaccine suitable for Australian conditions) and member of the New South Wales Parliament. These letters can be found on pages 447-448 of Donald Gunn and Alastair Gunn's *Scotland and Beyond; the Families of Donald Gunn (Tormsdale) and John Gunn Dalnaglaton, Strathmore and Braehour*.

(William) *was Messenger at Arms at Wick. Two young men committed a crime and a tinker named Cluny who was had up for stealing was with them. William Gunn was taking the three of them to Inverness and stopped the other side of Helmsdale for the night at an inn, putting the two prisoners and the tinker in an upstairs room while he and some more were drinking downstairs. The tinker told the other two if they wanted to go he would take the handcuffs off as he was too old to go himself, so he took their handcuffs off and they opened the window, jumped out and got away. William Gunn was held responsible and had to resign. He then went to Australia…*[63]

Now this story does not show William in a good light, as such it suggests at least some of it might be true – possibly all of it. Losing such a job in such a way would impinge on how others see you which might help explain emigration. But we should also be aware of the goldrush in the colony of Victoria and the consequent allure of emigration to that colony. William had family connections in Canada – his older half-brother the Hon. Donald Gunn of Manitoba had started working for the Hudson's Bay Company by 1813 and was certainly very established and well-known by the 1850s. William's older brother John (and therefore younger half-brother to Donald Gunn of Manitoba) also died in Canada, it is not known when he emigrated. For William it is possible that prospects of gold and the warmth of Australia overcame the temptations of Canadian family support.

The journey time to Australia was typically two to three months which meant William arrived in Victoria, at the earliest in June – July 1852. William then successfully worked as a gold miner[64] somewhere in Victoria for no more than three years.

'The Argus' of 1 October 1855 recorded[65] a forthcoming auction for 10 October - 'By Order of the executors of the late Mr John McKay … 1849 sheep with right to the station known as Waranga Park, Lower Goulburn.' Clearly William cannot have obtained Waranga Park before this auction, but he did so fairly soon after it. The auction date clearly shows that the idea[66] William owned the property before the Waranga Gold rush which started in mid-1853, is wrong. In other words, William had succeeded where the vast majority failed – he made money from gold mining, saved it and bought (more accurately in William's case 'leased' which later transferred to ownership) something significant with the proceeds.

William is recorded as occupying Waranga Station in the 1856 voters' list.[67] The land laws of Victoria at this time are confusing to follow and change over time; William was a 'squatter' a term which originally meant with no legal rights to the land but by William's time meant having lease rights from the Crown, often for long periods of time and for large areas and often for comparatively nominal rates. By sometime in the twentieth century such land was often owned outright. The term 'squattocracy' is often used to show the power and wealth of such people, with its deliberate links to 'aristocracy.'[68]

[63] From Gunn family papers originally held by Barbara Gunn Padgett (Austin). Notes by William Watkins & Marcus Daniel Gunn made during a visit to Dirlot cemetery Scotland. 1928. See pages 338-344 Donald Gunn and Alastair Gunn *Scotland and Beyond; the Families of Donald Gunn (Tormsdale) and John Gunn (Dalnaha, Strathmore and Braehour).* The notes were written on paper from the Station Hotel Wick *in* June 1928, given to Sylvia Bairstow nee Padgett, daughter of Norman Gunn Padgett by her aunt Barbara Gunn Padgett who, on 16 February 2011, passed them to Donald Gunn, son of Malcolm Gunn.

[64] There is no other logical way to have earnt such money at this time. I think that in the 1990s a William Gunn Miner's licence was sold by a Melbourne (Victoria) Philatelic Auction House – and it was for the Waranga Gold Rush. Another document with it linked the licence to 'our' William Gunn. It is therefore possible that William went to the Waranga Gold Rush, made his money and so decided to buy the place. But this is memory and without the actual catalogue the idea is but a possibility.

[65] 'The Argus' 1 October 1855, page 3.

[66] One example of this error can be found at https://www.g-mwater.com.au/downloads/gmw/LOWMPs/Waranga_LOWP_Web.pdf accessed 20 April 2021 being the 'Waranga Basin Land and On-Water Management Plan of 2011.'

[67] Page 17, Harley M. Foster *Waranga 1865-1965; A Shire History.*

[68] For an outline of this area see https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Squatting_(Australian_history).

It was a massive station - Waranga Park was 51,840 acres in 1856.[69] (By comparison the 1869 Land Act limited farms to a maximum of 320 acres.[70]) An 1888 view was that 'Waranga Park, at the present very much circumscribed in area, but which in days of yore embraced many miles on all sides of the existing town of Rushworth. This station he (William) held through every vicissitude of fortune up to the date of his demise, contending with Scottish stolidity against droughts that to most graziers were unsurmountable, and caused them to go to the wall. In the early days Mr Gunn earned a most enviable name as being the friend of the miners, never impounding stray horses or cattle, and assisting to the best of his power the poor struggler.'[71] One wonders if the friendliness shown to the miners reflected his remembrance of being a miner, or perhaps it was just Scottish Christian charity? Or both?

William succeeded where most graziers went 'to the wall' - at least some of the reason for this success was that the property was also called Gunn's swamp or Waranga Lagoon.[72] One view was that 'Gunn's swamp was a thickly timbered swamp and grew rushes in profusion.'[73] It was also known as a massive duck shooting spot which implies more than a swamp.[74] A modern, official view is that it was a 'natural wetland.'[75] The word 'waranga' may also have been the local aboriginal term for water.[76] All of which suggests Waranga Park was a very sensible acquisition by William as the area was probably the last to lose water in summer and the first to refill which would be a real bonus in hot, northern Victoria.

By November 1863 William is recorded as being the rate-payer for 'Waranga Park and Protectorate Stations'.[77] Protectorate Stations were established in various areas of Victoria to 'protect' the First Australians – the aborigines. A map showing the 1840s Squatters Runs has the Protectorate being on land next door to Waranga Park going up to the Goulburn River. William Gunn's links to the Protectorate Station are unclear.

As said, the Waranga Station was large so William needed to employ people to help run it. But farming did not all run smoothly, normal human passion could intervene. 'The Age' newspaper records one such event on Wednesday 20 February 1861 –

DEATH FROM STARVATION — James Barr, a native of Glasgow, who was lost from Gunn's Station Waranga Plains, ... was found on the 10th instant, after a long search, by one of the Messrs Winter's stockmen in a fearfully decomposed state. It appears that on the 26th of January a man residing in the same locality caught the deceased in his tent with his wife, and drove him away when it is supposed he wandered away into the Garra Garra Forest, where he was found, and was afraid to return. The police removed the body from where it was lying in the bush to Mr Brasher's Hotel, Rushworth, where a magisterial investigation was held before Mr J. T. Lewis, J.P. Dr O'Connor, who made a post mortem examination, was of opinion that the deceased died from inanition (lack of nourishment) ...

Other events occurred – a Waranga employed Chinese shepherd was convicted at Bendigo in August 1869[78] for killing a sheep, with intent to steal it. He had been suspected of previous 'thieving practices.'

[69] Letter, Edith Christoe to Donald Gunn, 29 Nov 2005. Edith Christoe was William Gunn of Waranga's great granddaughter.
[70] Page 73, Harley M. Foster *Waranga 1865-1965; A Shire History.*
[71] From an obituary published in 'The McIvor Times and Rodney Advertiser' Friday 2nd November 1888.
[72] See, for example, pages 75 and 142, Harley M. Foster *Waranga 1865-1965; A Shire History.*
[73] 'The Argus' Friday 8 February 1907.
[74] 'The McIvor Times and Rodney Advertiser' 1 April 1909.
[75] See https://www.g-mwater.com.au/downloads/gmw/Storages/27_Nov_-_Waranga_Brochure_WEB.pdf accessed 26 April 2021 for the Goulburn Valley Water's 'Waranga Basin Recreation Guide' which has an example of this idea.
[76] According to *The Argus* page 10, 1 July 1927.
[77] Page 130, Harley M. Foster *Waranga 1865-1965; A Shire History.*
[78] 'Bendigo Advertiser' 23 August 1869.

William was a noted, significantly wealthy man (as mentioned, his wife and son emigrated First Class in 1857) and was prepared to do the extra work expected from such people. He was voted Chair of the inaugural Waranga District Road Board on 5 August 1863.[79] He was added to the roll of Magistrates for the Colony on 16 October 1863 as a Justice of the Peace.[80] In 1868[81] he Chaired a meeting at Darby's Hotel in Rushworth, supporting the sitting political member the Hon. J MacGregor. Presumably he would do similar work over the years. He was also a Trustee of the Presbyterian Church of Victoria by August 1867. The 1861 Moderator was the Reverend Andrew Love: he had arrived in 1840.[82] The Rev Love's sister Margaret married Andrew Mitchell Younger Turner; their grand-daughter married John Alexander Gunn the Australian anthrax scientist and parliamentarian discussed in footnote 27 and who was a relative of William's. The Reverend Peter Gunn who was also of significant Presbyterian Church history is also presumed to be a relative and has already been discussed; he was the sixth Minister of the Church in Victoria. William's links with the Presbyterian Church of Victoria were at the highest level.

The farm life continued with its ups and downs; William was before the Rushworth Court in July 1864 for having over 7000 unlicensed scabby sheep on his property and some few hundred further scabby sheep on a nearby Station. It was brought by the sheep inspector for the District and William was fined the considerable some of £900.[83] The fine is large – the *average* yearly wage in 1863 for a 'Generally useful man on the Station, with rations' was 15 shillings to 18 shillings.[84] The local impact of one of the wealthiest farmers – and a J.P. - being before the court and being found guilty can be imagined. William was issued with a licence for 8,800 sheep under The Scab Act, on 7 January 1874[85]

The nature of farming was changing –

By the time the N.S.W. squatters were prepared to initiate large-scale capital outlays on fencing, Victorian attitudes had become reasonably explicit and clear-cut. A proposal to fence a section of Waranga Park in Victoria makes this essential point in 1870: 'The absence of this fence renders unavailable about 12,000 acres of useful but scrubby country in which sheep would thrive running at large … This large area would feed 3,000 sheep …. Mr Gunn …. reckons …. He could make £400 a year off this additional country …. The erection of this fence would enable him to discharge the 4 shepherds he now employs and thus save £225….[86]

It is not clear whether William Gunn did or did not fence his property, the key point is that he was at least prepared to consider it which shows his adaptability to new events and his financial soundness.

Family life continued; William's second daughter Janet married Alfred Collier, Manager of the Rushworth Commonwealth Bank, on 11 November 1887 at Waranga. She died at Waranga on 20 January 1888 from consumption; her brother-in-law the Presbyterian Rev. H Collier[87] who had married her also officiated at the funeral service.

The United Echuca and Waranga Waterworks Trust main water channel went through Waranga Park in 1888, the year of William's death, showing how the shortage of water was starting to be dealt with by damming and

[79] 'The McIvor Times and Rodney Advertiser' 14 August 1863.
[80] See https://www.academia.edu/45595274/Hon_Donald_Gunn_of_Manitoba_Canada_1797_1878.
[81] 'The McIvor Times and Rodney Advertiser' Friday 7 February 1868.
[82] Page 3, 'Bendigo Advertiser,' 20 August 1867.
[83] 'The Age' 15 July 1864.
[84] Page 25, *The Victorian Year-Book* 1873.
[85] *Victoria Government Gazette*, 1874.
[86] Being from p. 93 N. G. Butlin, *Investment in Australian Economic Development 1861-1900*, Cambridge University Press.
[87] 'Rushworth Chronicle', 20 January 1888.

irrigation; presumably some remuneration (and perhaps water) would have been made to the Gunns. After William's death a survey on totally damming the Gunn's Waranga Lagoon was started in 1890, work began on it in 1902 and was completed in in 1909 and further enlarged in 1926. The dam covered about 3,000 acres, the majority of it owned by the Gunns who were still the leaseholders of the land.[88] Again, one presumes a financial settlement[89] would have been made for the compulsory acquisition. In his grand-daughter's view that which went underwater was 'the best of the land.'[90] William was granted a grazing licence for 18,970 acres at an annual rent of £64/5/- on 9 January 1888.[91]

William was not a well man in his last years, from about 1872 on he had severe rheumatism which meant he was generally confined to his bed.[92] He died 22 October 1888[93] at Waranga and an obituary noted that

The deceased had far exceeded the allotted span of human life three score and ten having entered his 84th year. His remains were interred in the Rushworth Cemetery on Wednesday, in the grave of his daughter Mrs Collier. Many of his old and most intimate friends assembled to pay the last tribute and testimony to one who in life and in death well merited that tribute. He leaves a widow, two sons and two daughters to mourn their loss.[94]

Probate was granted on 20 December 1888 in the Supreme Court in Melbourne. [95] His two daughters were left £8000 each, his wife was left the Station House and furniture for life and the two sons William the younger and Alexander were left the rest, including the land.

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The Gunns continue at Waranga Park; they were involved with the growth of lawn tennis in the Rushworth region in the depression of the 1890s.[96] It seems that William Gunn the younger transported the original home from Waranga once it was near going under water as the dam started to flood, to Rushworth, then relocated it in 1906[97] and his family onto what is now known as Finnigan's Island.[98] The received no compensation for the loss – or 'moving' if you like - of their home.[99]

Of interest is an 1893 letter by William's wife Cecilia to her husband's niece Janet Gunn Muckle (1846-1930) in Canada on 6 October 1893. Janet[100] was the daughter of the **Honourable Donald Gunn of Manitoba**, Canada and she had married Alexander Montgomery Muckle. The tone and detail in the letter show a long-lasting, close link to the Canadian branch of the family. It also reveals major family tensions in the Waranga Gunns especially regarding her eldest daughter Margaret (Marnie), her second daughter Janet and her fourth daughter Elizabeth (Bessie). Alexander is also mentioned, being the second son and fifth child. The wealth of the family is obvious given it includes international travel in the major depression which impacted on Victoria in the 1890s.

[88] 'Leader' 29 March 1902.
[89] 6,000 acres of land was bought from farmers at £10 an acre – it is not clear the cost paid for leased land. See 'Leader' 29 March 1902.
[90] As mentioned in a letter written in 1974 from Janettie Gunn, William Gunn's granddaughter. See pages 447-448 of Donald Gunn and Alastair Gunn's *Scotland and Beyond; the Families of Donald Gunn (Tormsdale) and John Gunn Dalanaha, Strathmore and Braehour*.
[91] *Victoria Government Gazette*, 1888.
[92] From an obituary in the 'The McIvor Times and Rodney Advertiser' 2 November 1888.
[93] See https://www.academia.edu/45595274/Hon_Donald_Gunn_of_Manitoba_Canada_1797_1878.
[94] From an obituary in the 'The McIvor Times and Rodney Advertiser' 2 November 1888.
[95] See https://www.academia.edu/45595274/Hon_Donald_Gunn_of_Manitoba_Canada_1797_1878.
[96] Page 87, Harley M. Foster *Waranga 1865-1965; A Shire History.*
[97] 'The Riverine Herald' 21 April 1906.
[98] See http://www.rushworthtourism.com.au/Stanhope.html
[99] 'The Argus' 3 August 1906.
[100] For more on Janet, her marriage to Alexander Muckle and life at the Red River Settlement see https://www.redriverancestry.ca/MUCKLE-ALEXANDER.php.

Waranga Park,
October 6, 1893

My Dear Mrs Muckle

… We are here moving along in the old way and each doing his and her duties as well we can. Our boys are here preparing for the shearing which begins in a fortnight. We have had a very wet winter and the earth has got a fine soaking a state of things very desirable here and now as the warm weather advances everything looks lovely and green. Our garden looks charming at the present the flowers these gems of the earth being all in bloom and in all the gayest hues of color. Our homestead is very pleasantly situated on rising ground which slopes down to a small watercourse where Alexander made an embankment which conserves a fine sheet of water for our garden. But I am forgetting that Marnie has been with you for I am sure her valuble tongue will have described everything here to you.

I suppose you hear from Marnie oftener than we do for she seemed to enjoy herself very much while with you. Don't you think it very queer of her staying there among strangers so far from her own family more especially while her old mother is in the land of the living. I must tell you Janet that I was very angry with Marnie before she left here and I think you will say I had reason when I tell you that she never entered her sister Bessie's home since she was married although her place is not two miles from here and I must tell you Bessie did not make a low marriage by any means. The Ingrams are all very respectable and Bessie chose Mr. Alex from among many wooers. They are a very happy couple and she has a neat and pretty country home and a freehold of over 1000 acres of good land. Bessie has been in better health lately since the last operation was performed, she has improved greatly. I forget whether I told you that Bessie had a second operation we had her over here for a time and two doctors attended her. Her side being probed four times while under the influence of chloroform. I don't know whether Marnie knows all this or not as I never wrote her about it. As it seems to me Marnie estimation to be married is to have committed the unpardonable sin. I have no doubt that Marnie will be very much disappointed at her brother not taking the trip home that he intended taking when she left here. Since then our monetary institutions have been tumbling down one after another and causing a great deal of anxiety and loss to many who had their all invested in them. This state of things doubtless influenced Alex to give up his trip to the old country and to your big country and its big show. Some little time before I received your letter I noticed in a newspaper the death of your husband's relative Sir McClure and I was wondering whether any of his wealth would come your way but in your letter you say not. Well never mind Janet … I had a letter from Jane McDonald a short time complaining greatly of Marnie for not paying her a visit when she was so near you. Do you think Marnie knew their whereabouts when she left you… With kind love and regards to Mr Muckle self and young folks. Believe me ever your afftly.

CC GUNN (signed)

Cecilia Cormack died 18 October 1906 in Rushworth, Vic. She died two months after the land where the old home had been flooded, so she had moved in with her daughter Elizabeth and son-in-law Alexander Ingram.[101]

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Waranga Park was sold by auction on 14 September 1953. William Gunn the younger had continued to run it – see his life – until 1921. Then his daughter Janettie and her husband ran it; she sold what was left of the Estate after her husband's death in 1953.[102] It then consisted of 2700 acres including frontage to the Waranga Basin dammed area.

[101] 'The Argus' Saturday 20 October 1906.

[102] From letters written in 1974 by Janettie Gunn which can be found on pages 447-448 of Donald Gunn and Alastair Gunn's *Scotland and Beyond; the Families of Donald Gunn (Tormsdale) and John Gunn Dalnaglaton, Strathmore and Braehour*.

Part 3 – the children of William Gunn

Rushworth events may have happened at Waranga; Rushworth (Victoria) was the official place of recording births and deaths.

William GUNN of Waranga, b. 1804 Braehour, Caithness, d. 1888 Waranga. He married Cecilia CORMACK, b. 1820 Wick Parish, Caithness, m. 1850 Aberdeen, Grampian, d. 1906 Rushworth.

They had

1. Margaret Elizabeth Gunn, b. 1850 Caithness, d. 1929 Hawthorn, Melbourne.
2. Janet Gunn, b. 1852 Wick Parish, Caithness, d. 1888 Waranga. She married Alfred Collier in 1887, Melbourne.
3. William Gunn, b. 1853 Wick Parish, Caithness, d. 1921 Waranga. He married Julia Janet Ingram, b. 1860 Rushworth, m. 1889 South Melbourne, d. 1957 Murchison. They had William Ingram Gunn, b. 1890 Rushworth d. 1891 Rushworth, Julia Janet 'Janettie' Gunn, b. 1894 Rushworth, d. 1992 Mooroopna Victoria and William Gunn, b. 1896 Waranga, d. 1896 Waranga.
4. Elizabeth Gunn, b. 1859 Rushworth, m. 1888, d. 1921 Elsternwick, Melbourne. She married Alexander Ingram, b. 1845 Gambia (Africa), m. 1888, d.1909 Rushworth. They had Cecilia Catherine Ingram, b. 1890 Rushworth, d. 1976, Murchison and Marie Elizabeth Gunn Ingram, b. 1898 Rushworth, d. 1956 Queensland
5. Alexander Gunn, b. 1861 Waranga, d. 1915 Rushworth
6. Cecilia Jane Gunn, b. 1863 Waranga, d. 1864 Waranga

Lives of the children

The children of William Gunn of Waranga and Cecilia Cormack were:

1. Margaret (Marnie) Gunn was born in October 1850 in Caithness. She was on the census of 30 March 1861 in the household of her uncle James and aunt Margaret Cormack in Sinclair Terrace, Pulteney East, Wick, Caithness.[103] She and her younger sister Janet emigrated in 1874 to Melbourne. It seems unusual that Marnie and her younger sister Janet waited so long to emigrate given their mother and brother William the younger left in 1857 - and first class. Marnie still lived at Rushworth in the 1909 electoral roll but later moved - she died, unmarried, on 16 September 1929 at 'Longford', Riversdale Road, Hawthorn, Melbourne in a large, two-storey Victorian home.[104] She was buried in the 'family vault' at Rushworth.[105]

2. Janet Gunn was born in 1852 in Wick Parish, Caithness. She was on the census of 30 March 1861 in the household of her uncle James and aunt Margaret Cormack in Wick Parish, Caithness. She and Marnie emigrated in 1874 to Melbourne.[106] Janet married Alfred Collier[107] in November 1887 at Waranga.[108] She died in 1888 at Waranga, with no issue.[109]

[103] See https://www.academia.edu/45595274/Hon_Donald_Gunn_of_Manitoba_Canada_1797_1878.
[104] See https://www.academia.edu/45595274/Hon_Donald_Gunn_of_Manitoba_Canada_1797_1878.
[105] 'Rushworth Chronicle' 26 July 1929.
[106] See https://www.academia.edu/45595274/Hon_Donald_Gunn_of_Manitoba_Canada_1797_1878.
[107] Alfred Collier was a bank manager in 1887 in Rushworth.
[108] 'The Age' 10 November 1887.
[109] See https://www.academia.edu/45595274/Hon_Donald_Gunn_of_Manitoba_Canada_1797_1878.

3. William Gunn[110] the younger was born in 1853 in Wick Parish, Caithness.[111] He married Julia Janet Ingram, daughter of Robert Ingram and Emma Gifford, in August 1889 in St Barnabas Church, South Melbourne.[112] Julia[113] was born in 1860 in Rushworth. She was a teacher in 1889 in Murchison, a town very near Waranga and Rushworth. She died in 1957 in Murchison.

The Ingram family is of interest; Julia's grandfather Thomas Lewis Ingram[114] (1807-1868) was the acting colonial governor of the Gambia on five occasions. William's younger sister Elizabeth married Alexander Ingram in 1888. He was the son of the younger brother of Thomas Lewis Ingram. Alexander had been born in the Gambia. The Ingram land was very close to Waranga Park and probably abutted it – it had been left to Alexander and his brother Robert when their uncle Thomas Powell died. It is probable that various generations of closely linked Ingram families lived and worked on that land.

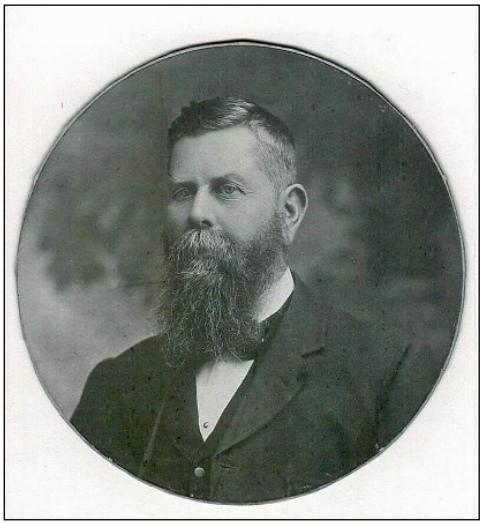
William emigrated in 1857 to Melbourne with mother Cecilia. He and his brother Alexander were named as Lessees in Arrear under Section 20 of the Land Act 1869, of leases number 2970 Waranga and number 2730 Murchison on 1 April 1888. He was a beneficiary of the estate of William Gunn of Waranga on 20 December 1888 in the Supreme Court of Victoria.[115] He was appointed as Manager of the newly gazetted Waranga Common on 24 February 1891.[116] He was Chair of the Waranga United Common committee in 1914[117] which implies earlier work on that committee.

There were bushfires in the Rushworth district in February 1893 which cleared the Waranga Estate (and many other places) of all grass and fencing.[118] Other scattered fires occurred over the years but a huge fire occurred in February 1905 covering fifteen miles by six miles with consequent massive destruction to Waranga Park which lost all its grass, several hundred sheep including high priced stud ewes and rams, the woolshed, stables, fences and outhouse.[119] The 'homestead had a narrow escape, as the stable within a few yards of the house was demolished, and the men were all away from home to fight the fire, and were unable to return. The ladies of the house, however, worked hard for some considerable period, and were then helped by some of the neighbours.'[120] One feels the Gunns were comparatively lucky that day.

William was the Waranga Shire Councillor between 1896[121] and 1919 at Rushworth, and Shire President in 1899, again in 1908, and again from September 1914 to 1915.[122] His allowance for his final term was 2½ per cent of the Shire's gross revenue of 1914 – an interesting payment.[123] William was also a member of the Repatriation Committee, a Commissioner for many years on the Echuca and Waranga Waterworks Trust, President of the Rushworth Mechanics Institute for over twenty years, Chief of the Caledonian Society of Rushworth and a member of the Council of the Victorian Scottish Union.[124]

[110] See https://www.academia.edu/45595274/Hon_Donald_Gunn_of_Manitoba_Canada_1797_1878.
[111] See https://www.academia.edu/45595274/Hon_Donald_Gunn_of_Manitoba_Canada_1797_1878.
[112] See https://www.academia.edu/45595274/Hon_Donald_Gunn_of_Manitoba_Canada_1797_1878.
[113] See https://www.academia.edu/45595274/Hon_Donald_Gunn_of_Manitoba_Canada_1797_1878.
[114] See https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Thomas_Lewis_Ingram for the life and times of the man and his family.
[115] See https://www.academia.edu/45595274/Hon_Donald_Gunn_of_Manitoba_Canada_1797_1878.
[116] See https://www.academia.edu/45595274/Hon_Donald_Gunn_of_Manitoba_Canada_1797_1878.
[117] 'Murchison Advertiser and Murchison, Toolamba, Mooroopna and Dargalong Express' 19 June 1914.
[118] 'The Herald' 13 February 1893.
[119] 'The Argus' Wednesday 4 January 1905. 'The Age' Saturday 19th November 1921 highlight his interest in merino wool production.
[120] 'The Age' Wednesday 4 January 1905.
[121] 'The Elmore Standard' 7 February 1896.
[122] See https://www.academia.edu/45595274/Hon_Donald_Gunn_of_Manitoba_Canada_1797_1878.
[123] 'Shepparton News' 7 September 1914.
[124] 'The Argus' 18 November 1921.

William died on 16 November 1921.[125] His will left £16,668 pounds to his widow.[126]



William Gunn the younger

One obituary[127] read -

RUSHWORTH.
Quite a gloom was cast over the entire district when it became known that Mr William Gunn, J.P., of "Waranga Park," Waranga, had passed away after an illness of only a couple of days duration. When his condition did not improve Dr Utber was called in. He at once recognised the seriousness of the trouble, and Dr Florence (Mooroopna) and Dr W. E. Hewitt (Murchison) were called in consultation, and they later decided upon an operation. This was undertaken, but the patient did not survive it.

Deceased was the eldest son of the late Mr William Gunn, who established the old Waranga Homestead in the early days. The site of the old homestead became submerged in the Waranga Basin, but there are many, who remember it well, as it was only three miles from Rushworth, and situated on Gunn's Creek.

Mr Gunn was a man of many parts taking an active interest for very many years in practically every public movement for the benefit of the district. For over 20 years he was a member of the Waranga Shire Council, and resigned the position of his own free will some 2 1/2 years ago. Through all his public and private life also, he maintained a degree of straightforwardness and general uprightness of character which gained for him the respect and goodwill of all who knew him, and he was a man who was known far and wide. He was a Chief of the Rushworth Caledonian Society and was president of the Rushworth Mechanics' Institute for over 20 years. He was an active member of the local Repatriation Committee, and for many years filled the position of commissioner of the old Echuca and Waranga Waterworks Trust when the present irrigation scheme was in its Infancy. His death will be a sad blow …

A pathetic circumstance in connection with the death of deceased is the fact that he had already booked his passage for a trip to the land of his birth in February next in company with his daughter and two of his nieces.

[125] See https://www.academia.edu/45595274/Hon_Donald_Gunn_of_Manitoba_Canada_1797_1878.
[126] 'The Herald' Monday 23rd January 1922.
[127] 'Shepparton Advertiser' 24 November 1921.

(His nieces Marie and Elizabeth did go to the United Kingdom in 1922 – but his daughter Janettie did not as she, along with her husband, took over the running of Waranga.)

Deceased was 68 years of age. The remains were interred in the Rushworth cemetery, the funeral being very largely attended, amongst the mourners being quite a number, of his late colleagues of the Waranga Shire Council. The Rev. Nelson conducted the service.

Children of William Gunn and Julia Janet Ingram were:

i. William Ingram Gunn who was born 6 December 1890 at Waranga.[128] He died on 4 January 1891.[129]

ii. Julia Janet (Janettie) Gunn was born 6 February 1894 at Waranga.[130] She married John Archibald Wyld McMillan, son of Robert Neil McMillan and Christina Wyld, on 5 September 1925 in the Holy Trinity Church, Oakleigh, Melbourne. John McMillan was born in 1900 at Murchison[131] and died in 1953 at Tatura. Janettie died in 1992 in Mooroopna, age 98.[132] She was the informant at the death of her brother Alexander on 31 Aug 1915 in Rushworth following injury he sustained after being thrown from a gig.[133]

iii. William Gunn who was born 25 September 1896 and died the following day.[134]

4. Elizabeth Gunn was born in 1859[135] and died in 1921. She married Alexander Ingram (1845-1909) in 1888.[136] Children of Elizabeth and Alexander were:

i. Cecilia Catherine Ingram who was born in 1890.[137] She married William Tait, son of William Tait and Elizabeth Gunn Finlayson, in 1936 in Victoria.[138] William Tait was born in 1872 in Mt Prospect, Victoria [139] and he died in 1948 in Murchison, age 77.[140] Cecilia toured Britain in 1922 along with her sister Marie – this they had been planned to do with her grandfather William the younger but he died before he could go. Cecilia also went again in 1955. She died in 1976, aged 86.[141]

ii. Marie Elizabeth Gunn Ingram was born in 1898. [142] Marie toured Britain in 1922 along with her sister Cecilia. She married Frederick Esmonde King circa 1930. She died in 1957. Frederick Esmonde King was born in Roma Queensland in 1896, was a pastoralist by 1920 in Clermont, Queensland[143] and died at Townsville, Queensland in January 1986. How did Marie and Frederick meet? The physical distance between them was vast.

[128] See https://www.academia.edu/45595274/Hon_Donald_Gunn_of_Manitoba_Canada_1797_1878.
[129] See https://www.academia.edu/45595274/Hon_Donald_Gunn_of_Manitoba_Canada_1797_1878.
[130] See https://www.academia.edu/45595274/Hon_Donald_Gunn_of_Manitoba_Canada_1797_1878.
[131] See https://www.academia.edu/45595274/Hon_Donald_Gunn_of_Manitoba_Canada_1797_1878.
[132] See https://www.academia.edu/45595274/Hon_Donald_Gunn_of_Manitoba_Canada_1797_1878.
[133] See https://www.academia.edu/45595274/Hon_Donald_Gunn_of_Manitoba_Canada_1797_1878.
[134] 'The Argus' 28 September 1896.
[135] See https://www.academia.edu/45595274/Hon_Donald_Gunn_of_Manitoba_Canada_1797_1878.
[136] See https://www.academia.edu/45595274/Hon_Donald_Gunn_of_Manitoba_Canada_1797_1878.
[137] See https://www.academia.edu/45595274/Hon_Donald_Gunn_of_Manitoba_Canada_1797_1878.
[138] See https://www.academia.edu/45595274/Hon_Donald_Gunn_of_Manitoba_Canada_1797_1878.
[139] See https://www.academia.edu/45595274/Hon_Donald_Gunn_of_Manitoba_Canada_1797_1878.
[140] See https://www.academia.edu/45595274/Hon_Donald_Gunn_of_Manitoba_Canada_1797_1878.
[141] See https://www.academia.edu/45595274/Hon_Donald_Gunn_of_Manitoba_Canada_1797_1878.
[142] See https://www.academia.edu/45595274/Hon_Donald_Gunn_of_Manitoba_Canada_1797_1878.
[143] See https://www.academia.edu/45595274/Hon_Donald_Gunn_of_Manitoba_Canada_1797_1878.

5 Alexander (Tal) Gunn was born 11 January 1861 at Waranga.

Alexander was involved in a legal dispute with Thomas Harrison concerning what seems to have been markers indicating ownership of land showing the border between the Gunn and Harrison properties around April 1901. Alexander was legally found to be in the wrong and fined in May, and was also found guilty of assault for the same event in June. Harrison had started both actions.[144] Thomas Harrison only had 25 acres and was an orchardist; the contrast in land size and purpose with the Gunns is obvious. Alexander's behaviour seems odd given his obituary - which follows - which describes him as 'quiet, unassuming.' Was it an out of character action by Alexander or perhaps a grudge borne by Harrison, manipulated into court cases?

Alexander and his brother William were named as Lessees in Arrears under Section 20 of the Land Act 1869, of leases number 2970 Waranga and number 2730 Murchison on 1 April 1888. He was a beneficiary of the estate of his father William Gunn of Waranga on 20 December 1888. Alexander died on 31 August 1915 in Rushworth, unmarried, following injury sustained after being thrown from a gig whilst driving into the town with his niece Janettie. One report[145] read –

An accident, which, unfortunately, had a fatal termination, happened to Mr Alexander Gunn, of Waranga Park, on Friday afternoon last while driving to Rushworth with his niece (Miss Jeannette Gunn). It appears that they had just crossed the bridge, opposite where the old Foresters' Arms hotel stood on the Murchison road, when the horse suddenly shied and "propped" and Mr Gunn was thrown with great force on to the hard metal roadway. When thrown out Mr Gunn carried the reins with him and this left Miss Gunn in an unenviable predicament. The horse at once made off and Miss Gunn was soon thrown out. She, however, had a fortunate escape in that she received but a severe shaking and some minor injuries to the back, which necessitated her remaining in bed for a few days. On Mr Gunn being picked up it was at once recognised that he had been very seriously injured. Blood was running from his mouth, nose, and ears, and he was unconscious. He was taken to Mr George Anderson's residence and medical aid summoned as speedily as possible. Later he was taken home, but from the first little hope was held out for his recovery. He, however, lingered on unconscious until Tuesday evening, when he passed away.

The late Alexander Gunn was the second eldest son of the late Mr Wm. Gunn, and was also a brother of Mr Wm. Gunn, of Waranga Park. Deceased was a native of Rushworth, having been born at the old Waranga Park homestead on the southern edge of Gunn's swamp, so named after his father. Here he grew up and continued to reside with his brother and other members of the family until compelled to remove to his late place of abode owing to the construction of the Waranga Reservoir. At the time of his death deceased was 54 years of age, and, although he took no part in public affairs, he was pretty widely known. He was one of those quiet, unassuming persons whose chief pleasures in life are derived from pottering about and minding their own affairs. He interfered with no one, and it can of a truth be said that no man was held in higher respect than the late Mr "Tal." Gunn. No wonder then that the news of his death was received on Wednesday morning with general expressions of regret, and the utmost sympathy was felt for his sorrowing relatives. The funeral, which took place yesterday afternoon was very largely attended. The service … was conducted by the Rev. Ingram.

6. Cecilia Jane Gunn was born in 1863 and died in 1864 at Waranga.

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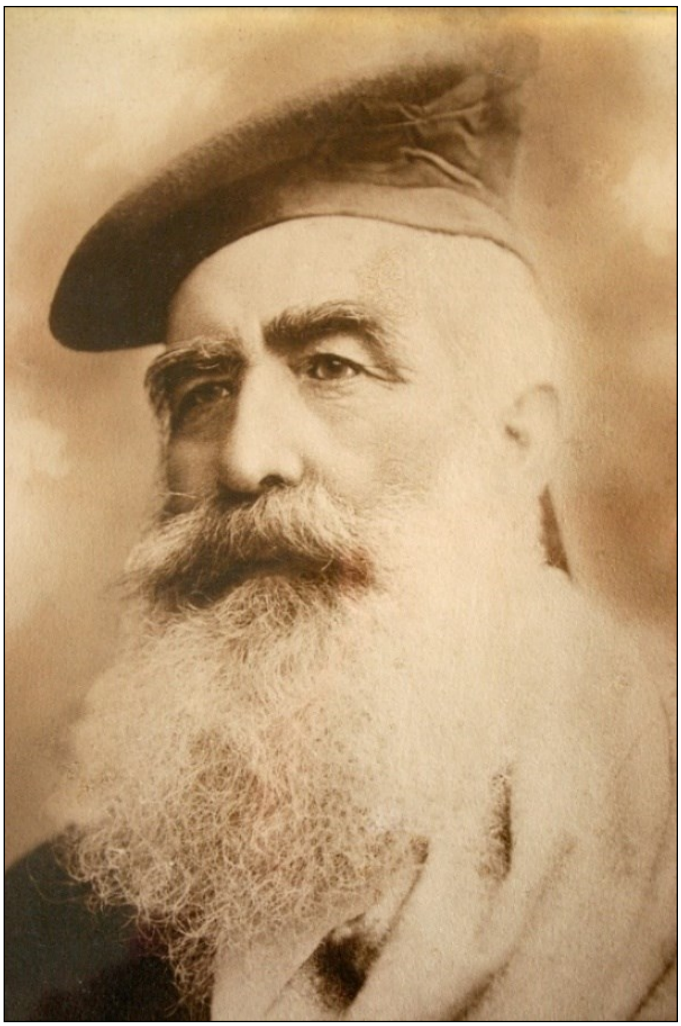
[144] See 'Benalla Standard' 31 May 1901 and 'The Age' 22 June 1901.
[145] 'Murchison Advertiser and Murchison, Toolamba, Mooroopna and Dargalong Express' Friday 3 September, 1915.

Donald Gunn of Brawlbin and Ballarat, Victoria, Australia 1832-1901 (great grandson)

*With mother **Barbara Gunn** 1810-1844 whose father was **Donald Braehour and Brawlbin Gunn** 1765-1861 being a son of **John Braehour Gunn**. Therefore, Donald is a great grandson of **John Braehour Gunn**.*



Donald Gunn

1. DONALD'S EARLY LIFE - THE HIGHLANDS OF SCOTLAND

Donald Gunn was born on 28 March 1832 at Brawlbin, Reay Parish, Caithness, Scotland.[146]

He was the eldest son – and second of five children – of **Barbara Gunn** in Braehour and Alexander Gunn of Bualchork and Brawlbin. All the children emigrated to, and later died in, Australia.[147] His siblings were –

Catherine Gunn 1830 – 1912 married **James Miller**, see pages 87-90.
Janet Gunn 1834 – 1913, married John W. Surman with descendants not Gunns. John Surman is Donald's brother-in-law; Donald married John Surman's sister.
John Gunn 1836 – 1854
William Gunn 1839 – 1901?

[146] Parish Records: Births 1832 Donald Gunn, parents Alexander, Brawlbin - Barbara; *Bible of Alexander Gunn*: Donald Gunn born 28 Mar 1832.
[147] It is worth clarifying the history – Victoria was an independent British Colony until the federation of Australia occurred on 1 January 1901.

Donald's mother **Barbara** was the second child[148] of **Donald Gunn of Braehour and Brawlbin** and Catherine Gunn in Osclay. **Barbara** and Alexander married on 19 March 1829 – she was nineteen years old; he was forty.

Donald's father Alexander was born in 1789 and had thought of migrating to join his uncle[149] William MacKenzie in Jamaica (who had been involved in the slave trade when he first arrived in that country) in 1817, but Alexander did not leave Scotland.[150] Alexander had a farm at Bualchork by 1821 and was also a successful shoemaker and saddle maker. By 1830 he had moved to Brawlbin farm, this was rented from the Forss Estate.

The real problem for Donald was that his mother died on 28 February 1844 and his father died on 29 March 1847 – his father had been in 'poor health' since at least January 1846. Donald was aged about fifteen at the time of his father's death and his older sister was around seventeen. The welfare state was not in existence – this situation could shatter a family.

Donald stepped up and became the 'man of the house.' Various receipts exist in the name of 'Donald Gunn Brawlbin' from January 1848, these include school fees for his three younger siblings, Poor Relief demands, a sizeable doctor's bill in 1852 and various other bills including a large amount for four and half gallons of whisky and porter in May 1853. As well, by March 1851 he was the named tenant farmer of the sixteen-acre farm.[151] Remember, Donald took on these responsibilities when aged fifteen - it must have been stressful.

Donald decided to emigrate to Australia by April 1853. He received a preliminary form from the 'Colonial Land and Emigration Commissioners' and tried to be put on the List of Candidates for a Passage. This did not work – the rejection of the official passage was sent to him on 30 June 1853. Other letters exist to Donald from October 1853[152] detailing assorted extended family squabbles, these may have increased his desire to emigrate.

Emigration was certainly not unknown from the Highlands; Jamaica has already been discussed. As well, Donald's uncle Marcus Gunn emigrated to Sydenham, Owen Sound, Canada around September 1842. He married Barbara Mackay. His aunt Christian Gunn also emigrated to Canada with her husband Alexander Sutherland a few years later. Marcus and Christian lived close to each other and descendants exist for both siblings.

Donald continued to work towards emigration and was given a character reference by Finlay Cook the Minister of the Reay Free Church on 29 June 1854 and a second character reference was given by D. Campbell of Thurso on 3 July 1854. In it he says Donald was going 'to try his fortune at the diggings' so Donald, at least in public, had given his reason for emigrating to Australia. The Victorian gold rush which started in 1851 meant migration to there had become a much more visible option than to Canada in the 1850s - the impact was that in the 1850s some 90,000 Scots migrated to Australia.[153]

[148] The oldest child was **John Gunn of Durness**, no Gunn named descendants now exist.
[149] William Mackenzie was the brother of Janet Mackenzie, who married Donald Gunn of Tormsdale. Janet was Alexander Gunn's mother.
[150] One of Alexander's brothers was Donald whose descendants include **Sir John Gunn of Tormsdale** 1837 - 1918 who was much involved with the Welsh shipping industry. His daughter Winifred married Francis Brodie Lodge who was a manufacturer and inventor of spark plugs as well as being a major collector of Chinese ceramics and bronzes.
[151] Census 30 March 1851: County of Caithness, Parish of Reay. Residents at Brawlbin. Donald Gunn head, unmarried 19, farmer, 16 acres, born Halkirk; Katherine Gunn sister, unmarried 20, general service, born Reay; Janet Gunn sister, unmarried 17, scholar, born Reay; John Gunn brother, unmarried 15, scholar born Reay; William Gunn brother, unmarried 12, scholar born Reay.
[152] It seems Donald had been to the Orkney Islands sometime in that year, being implied in a letter held by the author.
[153] Page 73, A. Inglis and P. T. Macdonald, *For Auld Lang Syne; Images of Scottish Australia from the First Fleet to Federation*

There is one love poem addressed to Donald at 'Bralbin' saying he had fallen out of love with the girl poet – but Donald kept the poem. Did he break off the relationship as he knew he was going to emigrate? Had he really retained a soft spot for her?

The main reason for Donald's migration was probably the need to accompany his sister. Catherine had been the childhood sweetheart of James Miller[154] of Wick who had worked on various ships between Van Diemen's Land (now Tasmania) and Norfolk Island in the late 1840s and early 1850s. He settled in Melbourne in June 1851, spent a year or so on the Ballarat goldfields and then moved to Geelong and established a coal yard and ship's chandlery on the proceeds from his time on the fields. He had mined about sixty ounces of gold for which he received about £4 an ounce. So that's £240; the average working man's wage in 1852[155] was about £100. In 1854 James sent for Catherine.

Donald and Catherine emigrated on 21 Aug 1854 from Liverpool, Merseyside, on the 'Herald of the Morning' which anchored off Melbourne on the 23rd of December 1854, presumably disembarkation occurred soon thereafter.[156] Given Donald had tried to be an assisted migrant but failed it is probable that James Miller sponsored / paid for the migration, especially as no further family papers / forms exist from the Emigration Commissioners.

James and Catherine were married on 12 March 1857 at Buninyong, Victoria, where Donald then lived. They had six children. Catherine was a servant and resident at Geelong at the time of her marriage.

Donald's younger brother John had earlier emigrated to Australia and arrived around October 1853 when he was aged about seventeen. He died at Rosehill, Moonee Ponds, Melbourne on 10 January 1855. The family story is that John died from sunstroke caught whilst waiting for Donald and Catherine's boat to dock. John wrote an account of his voyage to Australia which probably was similar for Donald and Catherine. John's account is

Monday July 11th Took steamer from Scrabster Roads to Glasgow and arrived there on Wednesday the 13th about 7 in the afternoon. I remained in Glasgow till 6 o'clock P.M. on Saturday when I took a steamer to Liverpool and arrived there about 8 o'clock P.M. on Sunday. Remained on shore until Thursday following when I embarked on Board the ship Tasmania which was then hauled out of the Docks and lying in the River Mersey. The ship lay here again until Wednesday the 27th July when she weighed anchor and was tugged out of the Harbour by two steam boats the last of which left the following morning at Holy-Head when we were left to beat up the English Channell - it was a fine day + we were in high spirits. On the 29th it commenced to blow right ahead and a great many of the Passengers sea sick I myself was very sick for some days. For the four following days we were beating up the English channel the wind always blowing ahead until on Tuesday the 2nd Augt when we neared the Bay of Biscay and it fell calm and continued so all day but on the 3rd a smart breeze sprung up which carried us along at a beautiful rate and from this to the 9th we had splendid weather and all passengers were again well. there are a great many Highland people on Board and we had Music and Dancing every good evening in which I joined considering it best for the health to take a little exercise. On

[154] Information derived from *The James Miller Story*, a company history. James Miller expanded from running his Geelong businesses into creating a massive ropemaking business in Emerald Hill, Melbourne in 1862, called 'Miller's Ropes.' In 1962 it was still operating, still family run and was Australia's largest manufacturer of rope, cordage and associated products.

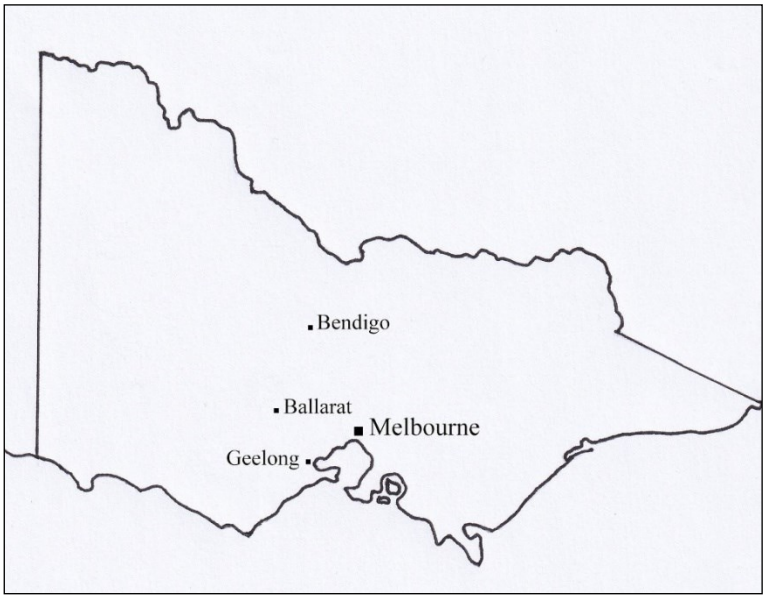
[155] See https://www.sbs.com.au/gold/story.php?storyid=66 accessed 12 November 2020.

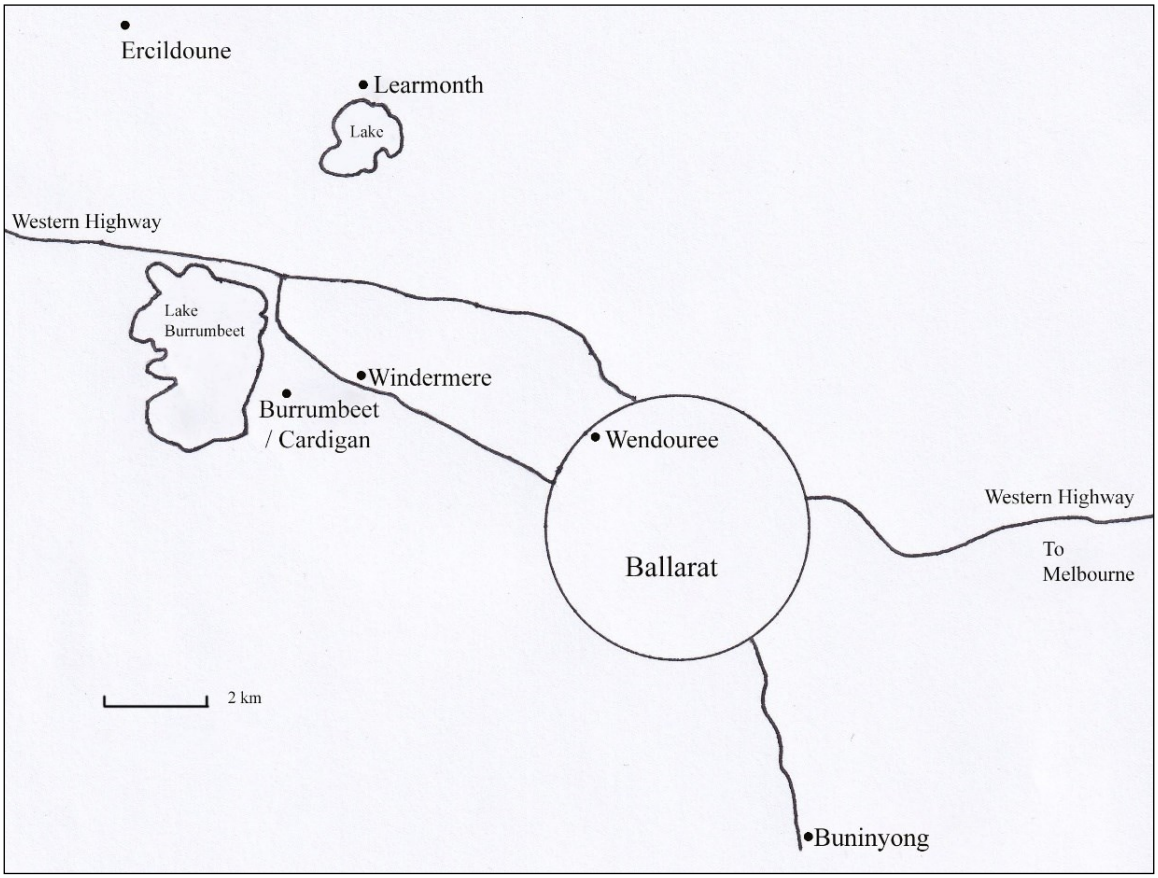
[156] The passenger list for the 'Herald of the Morning' records the only Donald Gunn of the approximate age to arrive between late 1854 and early 1856. It reads - John Raps(?), 22; Walter Williamson, 20; John Sutherland,19; Hugh Murray, 22; Donald Gunn, 27; Barbara Gunn, 29 and Hugh Matheson, 36, all berthed together. William Watkins Gunn – the second son of Donald Gunn and Jane Surman – has written that Donald and Catherine travelled together. It is unclear why Catherine travelled under her mother's name.

Tuesday the 9th the wind shifted a little ahead of us. Today we saw the Island of Porto Santo which belongs to the Portuguese. It is a wild (mild?) *looking spot we saw two small boats as if they were fishing between us and the shore. 10th and 11th Very calm and doing little progress. On the 12 we came in sight of the Island of Medeira and passed about 8 miles to the east of it. 13 we had little wind but on Sunday the 14th we had a .... breeze. There were a great many fishes seen today and although it was Sunday the sailors and Passengers some of which I am sorry to say were Scotch tried with hook and spear to catch some. They did catch five of them and immediately gutted and Boiled and ate them. They were called Albacors and weighed about 30lbs each. However I did not touch them. On Monday the 15th we had a nice Breeze of Fair Wind nothing between 9 and 10 knots an hour. Passed the barque Jane of Aberdeen bound for Melbourne in Lat 31 N. On 16th the splendid screw steam ship Sidney passed us. She sailed from London on the 4th Augt and was bound for Sidney and passed steaming under a cloud of Canvas about 3 O'Clock in the afternoon. On Wednesday the 17th we entered the Tropics about 11 O'Clock am. It is now getting very warm. 17th and 18th. Good Breeze of fair wind several ships in Company but we left them all in a short time. 19th. Very Calm and at night it was the most beautiful sight I ever saw there was several ships in view and the sea was as smooth as glass. Saturday the 20th. Steward was today put in irons in consequence of his refusing to execute certain orders of the Commander. On the 21st, 22nd + 23rd we had fair wind and going very well. On the 24th it rained heavily for the first time since we left Liverpool and the passengers were eagerly engaged in catching as much of it as they could for washing with it. A child died today of the measles and committed to a watery grave about 4 O'Clock in the afternoon by the Carpenter after a funeral sermon was read by the surgeon. Immediately afterwards the passengers sang a hymn. On the 25th it was very blowy with some flashes of Lightning in the evening. It is now very warm + I can scarcely sleep in my berth with my clothes at all on me. We walk the Deck with nothing but our trowsers and shirt on and still it is very oppressing the heat. I can scarcely bear to put my naked hand on any article exposed to the sun about 12 noon. The sun is now over our heads. Friday the 26th. Very calm with some showers of rain. 27th High winds not at all favourable. On the 28th, 29th, 30th we had very good weather but the heat very great and suffering a great deal from thirst the water very bad and not drinkable without vinegar or something to take away the taste and smell. We are all divided in 6 messes + take a day about in cleaning the berths and cooking for each mess. On Wednesday the 31st we were all ordered by the Captain on Deck from 10 to 12 noon to allow the 'tween Decks' to be aired. 1st 2nd + 3rd very varyarorable weather but on the 4th we fell in with the Trade winds which are favorable. Monday 5th September. Splendid breeze going 10 + eleven knots an hour. Tuesday 6th. Blowing very strong but wind very favorable going at the rate of 14 Knots an hour and continued this way for some days but on the 12th we were obliged to go under double reefed top sails. I should have observed that that we crossed the line on the 3rd and the event was celebrated by the usual custom of shaving among the crew and passengers. 13th 14th and 15th Weather milder though the swell of the sea and the rocking of the ship made it almost impossible to walk the Decks. 16th Good weather and going well the weather is now getting colder. 17th Still good weather. 18th It commenced to blow against us and continued so for two days a tremendous quantity of sea fowl observed such as Cape Pidgeons and Albatrosses some of the latter measure from wing to wing the length of from 8 to ten feet. On the 20th we passed the Cape of Good Hope at a distance of 800 miles from it to the south. From this to the 1st of October we have very changeable and rough weather which made it very difficult to write. On the 2nd October the wind changed in our favour and we run by log the great distance of 340 miles in 24 hours but shipped several seas which washed all the decks. 3rd + 4th Very heavy sea with strong wind. Lost our main top stansail. Wednesday 5th Our miser* (?) *top Gallant yard gave way and broke through the middle. The carpenters were immediately engaged in making a new one and were helped by some Carpenters and Joiners on Board. Thursday 6th Heavy sea, ship labouring much shipping heavy seas. We got our yard rigged early in the morning but about 12 noon a sea struck the ship lurching her in such a manner as to break her miser mast into three pieces + Down came itself yards and sails bringing down with it in its course our Maintop gallant and Royal yards. Nothing could exceed our*

Consternation + surprise when we saw our ship so suddenly disabled. All hands were immediately engaged in clearing the deck and the carpenters got such help from the Passengers that the ship was soon put to rights. 7th 8 9 + 10th Got fair wind and going very well 11th Blowing rather strong. 12th Saw a ship bound to Melbourne with Passengers 115 days out we soon left sight of her she sailed from London. 13th and 14th Fair wind + going well. 15th Passengers today collected a subscription among them for to present the Captain on their arrival at Melbourne with some token of their respect. 16th Wind rather contrary but still on the right course. 17th + 18th Fair wind. 19 + 20 Fair wind and drawing near land. 21st This morning early the news was that the land was in sight and everybody was on Deck. 22nd Coasting along the Australian shore. 23rd Early this morning came in sight of Port Phillip Light House. We then got a Pilot and sailed up the straits for Melbourne where we arrived and cast Anchor three miles from the town at 2 O'Clock in the afternoon. The Custom House Officers came immediately on Board with the Inspector. We lay at Anchor here all night and next morning and this morning Tuesday the 25th there was steam boats come to fetch us ashore. Melbourne is a strange Place. Two men was hanged yesterday and other two are to be hanged today. Wages is very good yet. I did not get any job yet but I expect to get one soon. This is now a sketch of the Passage and I hasten to inform you of my safe arrival Dear Uncle. There was no sickness on Board but 7 children died of the measles +c and we had three Births. We arrived 2 hours after the Gildfinder (?) *who sailed from Liverpool 5 days before us. Mc Williamson's* (?) *little Neil died also on the voyage. I will write you again soon with all the news.*
I am My Dear Uncle, your affect nephew, John Gunn 25th Oct 1853
I was not a day sick since I left home but a little sea sick at first. Passage 88 days.

2. VICTORIA, AUSTRALIA
2.1. BUNINYONG





The Ballarat region of Victoria.

It is not clear what Donald did after his arrival in Victoria in late December 1854 but his acquisition of an abattoir on leased land by late 1857 at Buninyong, near Ballarat, shows he had a reasonable amount of money and his lifestyle in Scotland suggests that the money did not come from there. To earn the money Donald may have worked[157] for James Miller, he may have worked on the goldfields, he may have worked in Melbourne or on farms and if he worked on farms it would probably have been in the Melbourne-Geelong-Ballarat triangle. Alternatively, Donald could have worked on all these options – or none.

Buninyong, although now a minor town near Ballarat, was the earliest inland community in Victoria being initially settled – other than by First Nation Australians / aborigines - by the Scottish Learmonth brothers in 1841 who were very much involved with Merino sheep farming. The Learmonth brothers also had the large estate of Ercildoune[158] which is close to Ballarat, Donald later leased a farm next door to this property. Donald would have felt at home in this area - one estimate[159] is that three quarters of the pastoral pioneers of Victoria were Scottish.

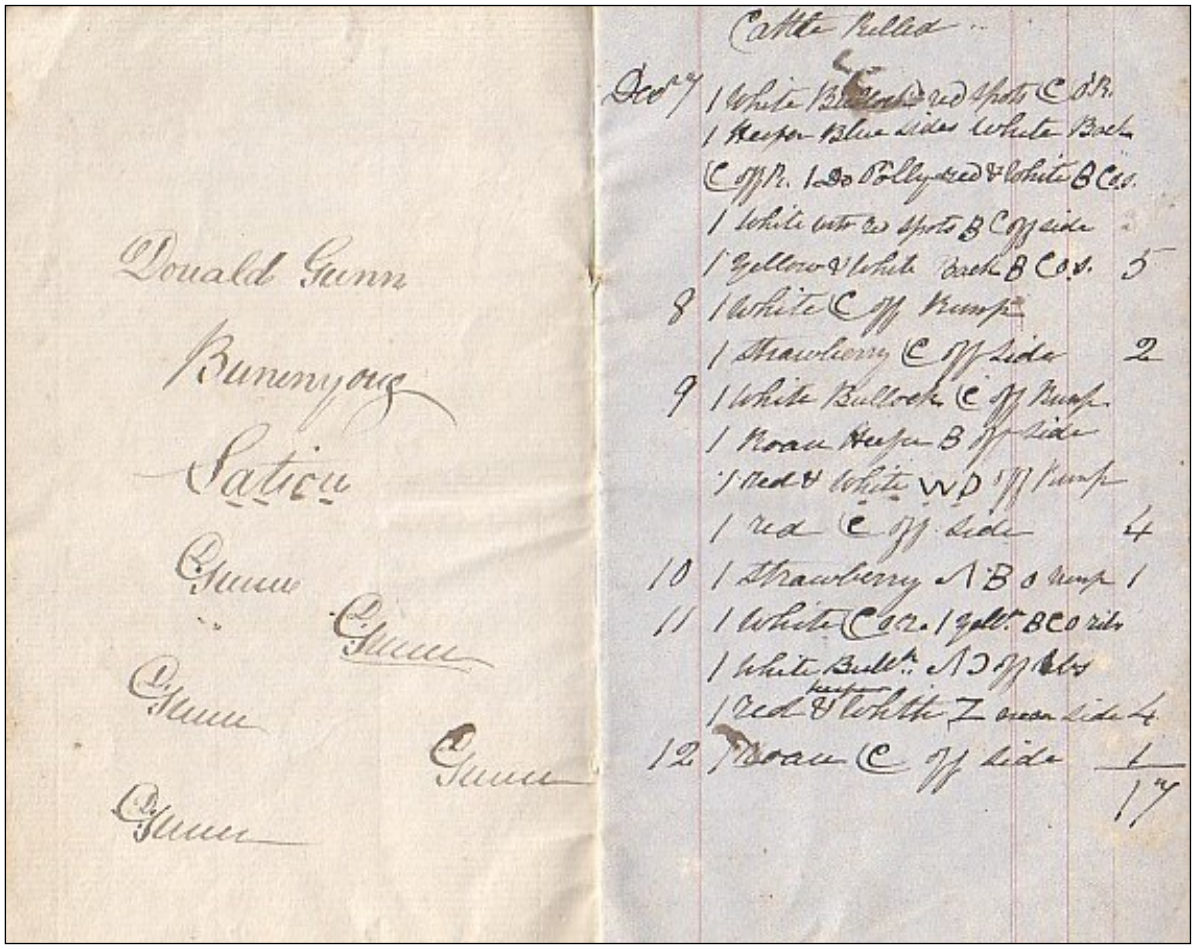
Land tenure was a contentious issue in Victoria in the nineteenth century. Originally Australia was viewed as virgin country. This meant the first white settlers could claim massive amounts of land, which is what the Learmonths had done. These land runs needed a yearly licence by the late 1840s. The problem was that change was needed to provide security of tenure but equally such rural land – basically sheep runs - did not pay their way in taxes when compared with urban areas and nor did they provide the variety of foodstuffs required for a growing population. These competing issues meant a mixed bag of quick-changing laws by short-lived governments in the 1840s and early 1850s with a focus on which Government rural land could be leased and which sold. The sold land was mainly for use by schools, churches, roads, railways, houses on rural farms, mining and other such infrastructure.

Once gold was discovered the problem of tenure was magnified due to the consequential massive population increase. The solution was that the Government allowed the massive sheep-dominated Estates to continue but also allowed significantly more rural land to be leased. The person leasing such land generally had first refusal when the lease came up for renewal and in some cases could even buy the land. So the Government came up with a decision which kept the competing land-hungry sides happy.

Donald's abattoir had some link with the local Pound as Donald killed two animals for it in the December 1857 – January 1858 period. It was a busy six days a week business – for the period 7 December 1857 to 9 January 1858 the abattoir killed sixty-six cattle (including three on Christmas Day) and 581 sheep were 'sold'. Did Donald run something of a saleyard for animals or was 'sold' in his accounts just a shorthand word for killed? The abattoir had previously been run by the Learmonth brothers.[160]

Donald had sublet the business by 1867, but the lease still had two years to run and remained in his name.

[157] Scottish 'family capitalism' in Victoria and elsewhere is well known. See https://journals.openedition.org/abe/5822 accessed 15 November 2020.
[158] The original spelling was without an 'e' see https://journals.openedition.org/abe/5822 accessed 15 November 2020.
[159] See http://home.vicnet.net.au/~buninhis/newsletters/2014_jun.pdf - the figure used is from Margaret Kiddle's *Men of Yesterday*.
[160] Was the link why Donald's later property at Burrumbeet was next to the Learmonths' Ercildoune Estate?



Being part of Donald Gunn of Buninyong Station's abattoir account book.

A description[161] of the site in December 1867 is of interest although it was then run by a Mr Kelsall –

The works are not very large, and at a distance there are no signs perceivable of any great manufacturing industry. It is a rather venerable cluster of weatherboard and shingle buildings about which the visitor speedily discovers ocular and olfactory signs of the mysteries going on within. Entering the yard, the visitor sees a heap of refuse in which a sow and litter of pigs are burrowing with industrious satisfaction. The heap consists of bones, horns, and bits of meat which have passed through the boiler. The bones snap easily, and seem almost calcined by the great heat to which they have been subjected. The bits of meat are in shreds, having been literally boiled to rags. Passing on we come to a lorry loading with great casks of tallow, and we scent everywhere a potent odour of fat, blood, wool, and soap, through all which there seems to run a stream of pollution, as a smell of decaying animal matter makes itself prominent, though not unbearably so even to a stranger. To the people employed on the spot the odours prevailing are no doubt hardly noticeable, perhaps they are even pleasant. Inside the works we find Mr Kelsall, junior, who courteously shows us over the establishment and gives, or procures for us, all the information we require. He takes us at once to the place where the terrible initial rites of the mysteries of the house are performed. This is a platform where the killers do their bloody business. We go up a slippery ladder to a slippery floor, and out upon an enclosed platform where there are four butchers, with sleeve-less bloody arms, knives in hand or mouth, and ankle deep in warm gore. Below is a paddock or pen for sheep, and connecting the paddock with the platform is an inclined way,

[161] Page 5, 'The Ballarat Star' 16 December 1867.

up which. the sheep have to make their march to anything but " dusty " death. A score or two of sheep stand huddled together on the platform yet unkilled, a half dozen lie dead with their throats gaping, one man is wrenching the skin from one carcase, one is disembowelling a sheep, one is hewing another sheep in pieces. There is a reeking of warm blood, an oozy, slippery feeling of blood wherever one puts his foot, and a retreat from the horrible place is beaten as quickly as possible. If we did not we should see the butchers at their quick murderous work. There lies a heavy axe or adze, all wet with blood, close by. With this they knock the sheep on the head, a dozen or so at the time, and then cut their throats. As we go off the platform into another place, we see the floor scattered with sheep carcases—headless, tailless, and legless.

Turning round we see a heap of heads, and close by there hang rank after rank of legs of mutton. Perhaps fifty—perhaps four times that number. These go to the butchers, the Ballarat market absorbing most of them. All the rest of the animal, head, tail, feet, horns, body, viscera—everything but the wool and skin, goes into the boiler. This is a big cauldron of 8 1/2 feet diameter and 10 1/2 feet deep, water and heat to which are supplied by a furnace and boiler close by. This awful pot will take 350 reduced carcases into its maw, and in eight hours, with a pressure on the boiler of 2 lb to the inch, the cauldron is ready to be discharged of its fat, which is run off to the coolers and casks. When cool it is white, though not quite equal to the best mutton tallow, which is composed of fat only without any admixture of the oil which comes from the flesh and extremities of the animal. After the fat has been run off there remains the flesh, which has been reduced to as sort of pulp. This is taken out and run along a tramway out of doors, where there is a screw press into which it is thrown and all the remaining grease squeezed out. The pulp and its contained debris of bones and horns are then thrown into the yard, and pigs feed and burrow in it with gluttonous delight. We now go to those parts of the works where the skins and wools are disposed of. Here are Mr Seymour, the head of the fellmongers, and his eleven or twelve assistants. Still everything is slippery, greasy, odorous, but happily not now horrible like the first place we saw. Creeping with bent backs through damp, oozy, greasy places we see out in the bright sunlight white beds of wool spread out to dry. But we go first to where Mr Seymour is, for he will tell us all about the skins and the wool. Here he stands on slippery boards beside a slippery vat hull full of what looks like a mixture of soap suds and pea-soup. In a shed close by are two pelters or fellers working away for their lives at sheepskins, scraping them clean of all wool left on them. We learn that the skins are brought from the platform of horrors and put to soak in the water pits for 24 hours, then in another pit of water, then they are taken into the sweating-house to loosen the wool from the skins and make the work of detachment more easy. We peeped into the sweating-house. It was slippery, greasy, dim, warm, full of pendant woolly skins, and over the floor and dropping from the pendant skins there swarmed fat white maggots in myriads. From the sweating-house the skins are taken to the fell mongers, who strip the pelt and sort the wool into six sorts. From the strippers the wool goes to the scourer, who puts it into a vat of hot water and hard soap; after that it is put into pure cold water, and then is taken to the drying grounds, each sort on its proper sheet or floor. In winter drying is hastened by hot air pipes placed in a room for the purpose. When dried the wool is put into a screw-press, and packed in bales ready for the market. We saw the whole process, or rather the scene and implements of the whole process, from the killing-place to the pressing and packing place, a pile of ready packed bales standing by the press ready for despatch to market. Besides the wool that comes from the skins there are fleeces sent by sheep owners to be washed and picked; and it was these that looked so white and glittering upon the drying grounds. Mr Kelsall boils down for sheep owners at a rate per sheep of one shilling, plus certain offal. His works are hardly yet in full trim; but he expects to be able to dispose of 500 sheep a day, the supply being equal to that daily amount of slaughter. The season commenced about a fortnight ago and lasts about three months. At this place sheep only, and not cattle, are boiled down. In the pre-auriferous days the Messrs Learmonth carried on the boiling-down business on this spot, and Mr Kelsall was for years their manager. Since then he has been soap-making,

five tons per week being made from fat obtained from the butchers. This business is now carried on at a shed about 300 yards off the boiling-down works, but we saw great piles of bars of soap in the latter place also.

By this time there was a secondary part of the abattoir business on one hundred and twenty-five acres of land leased from Donald at Windermere, near Cardigan / Burrumbeet near where Donald had moved to around 1860.

But Donald did not give up all his links to Buninyong. A major incident occurred in September 1867 when two drovers drowned driving a mob of cattle and flock of sheep for him to the abattoir; one was the elder brother of the Mr Kelsall to whom Donald had sublet the business.[162]

Donald was also actively involved in Buninyong as late as June 1868 – he chaired a meeting of the Buninyong Constitutional Association which was part of many such meetings in Victoria arguing about the laws of the day. The Constitutionalists were concerned that the law was the law; the alternative view was that laws were wrong due to not having universal male suffrage. The key point is Donald's central role as Chair; he seems never to have been a quiet bystander. His politically conservative position is also obvious.

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[162] 'The Argus' 28 September 1867.

A major recreational activity for Donald at this time was with the Buninyong Highland Society[163] of which he was the Foundation Secretary. The Buninyong Highland Society[164] was the first Highland Society established in Victoria and it started in 1857. The Society's Standing Rules[165] make for interesting reading with its mix of social activity and co-operative help –

STANDING RULES
OF THE
HIGHLAND SOCIETY BUNINYONG

Rule 1st. It is imperative that Forty Pounds Sterling (£40) (the directors having power to add thereto) be secured out of the funds of the Society at the beginning of every year for the next Anniversary.

" 2nd. That this money be paid in prizes, as the directors shall see most fit for the promotion of their anniversary meeting.

" 3rd. That the anniversary shall be held on the 1st January, (New Years Day) unless that such day happens to be Sunday, in which case the following Monday to be appropriated for the Gathering.

" 4th. That any Funds available to the Society after the appropriation of the aforesaid sum be applied to Charitable purposes alone.

" 5th. Any Member of the Society in distress through sickness, or accident presenting his case to the directors, shall upon their being satisfied that he is a deserving object, receive such releif as his case requires or the funds of the Society permit.

" 6th. In case of there being no available funds, and a member applying for assistance, that the directors be empowered to call a Meeting of the Members in order that steps may be taken to afford immediate relief.

" 7th. That at the decease of any member of this Society, Five pounds Sterling (£5) be given to defray expenses.

" 8th. That at the decease of any member of this society, Fifteen Pounds Sterling (£15) be paid to his widow, or lawful children (Funds being available for this purpose).

" 9th. That if the deceased leave no widow or lawful children that the aforesaid sum be placed in the funds of the Society.

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[163] As well as Donald being involved with the Buninyong Highland Society he may have been involved with the (Ballarat) Caledonian Society 'The Caledonian Society was formed in November, 1858, and the first sports were held on New Year's Day, 1859, on what is now known as the Eastern Oval. Mr Hugh Gray was the first president, and with him as judges on that day were Charles Roy, Donald M'Donald and Donald Gunn ....'. Page 307, Walter Withers, *The History of Ballarat from the First Pastoral Settlement To The Present Time.* The Ballarat Caledonian Society continued to run Highland Games over the years - for example a Donald Gunn is recorded as a judge for the Highland Fling, the Best Dressed Highland Boy, Best Dressed Highlander and Tossing the Caber at the New Year's Day 1861 meeting so it is reasonable to assume a fairly continuous participation in these Games by a Donald Gunn for some time. See Page 2, 'Geelong Advertiser' 3 Jan 1861. I suspect this Donald Gunn was not the Donald Gunn who is the subject of this book; 'our' Donald Gunn is central in all Societies of which he was a member and not a peripheral judge. As well, 'our' Donald Gunn was fully involved with the Buninyong Highland Society and would have had little time to become involved in the physically distant Ballarat Caledonian Society. Also, other Gunns are known in Ballarat at this time so another Donald Gunn is a reasonable possibility. There is also no family paperwork relating to the Caledonian Society suggesting 'our' Donald was not involved in it.

[164] See http://home.vicnet.net.au/~buninhis/newsletters/feb_06.html for a full history of the Society.

[165] See http://home.vicnet.net.au/~buninhis/ accessed 12 February 2006 for discussion about the society and the games over time.

" 10th. Any member who has not paid into the Society for nine clear months, shall forfeit all right and claim to all or any of the benefits set down in the foregoing rules.

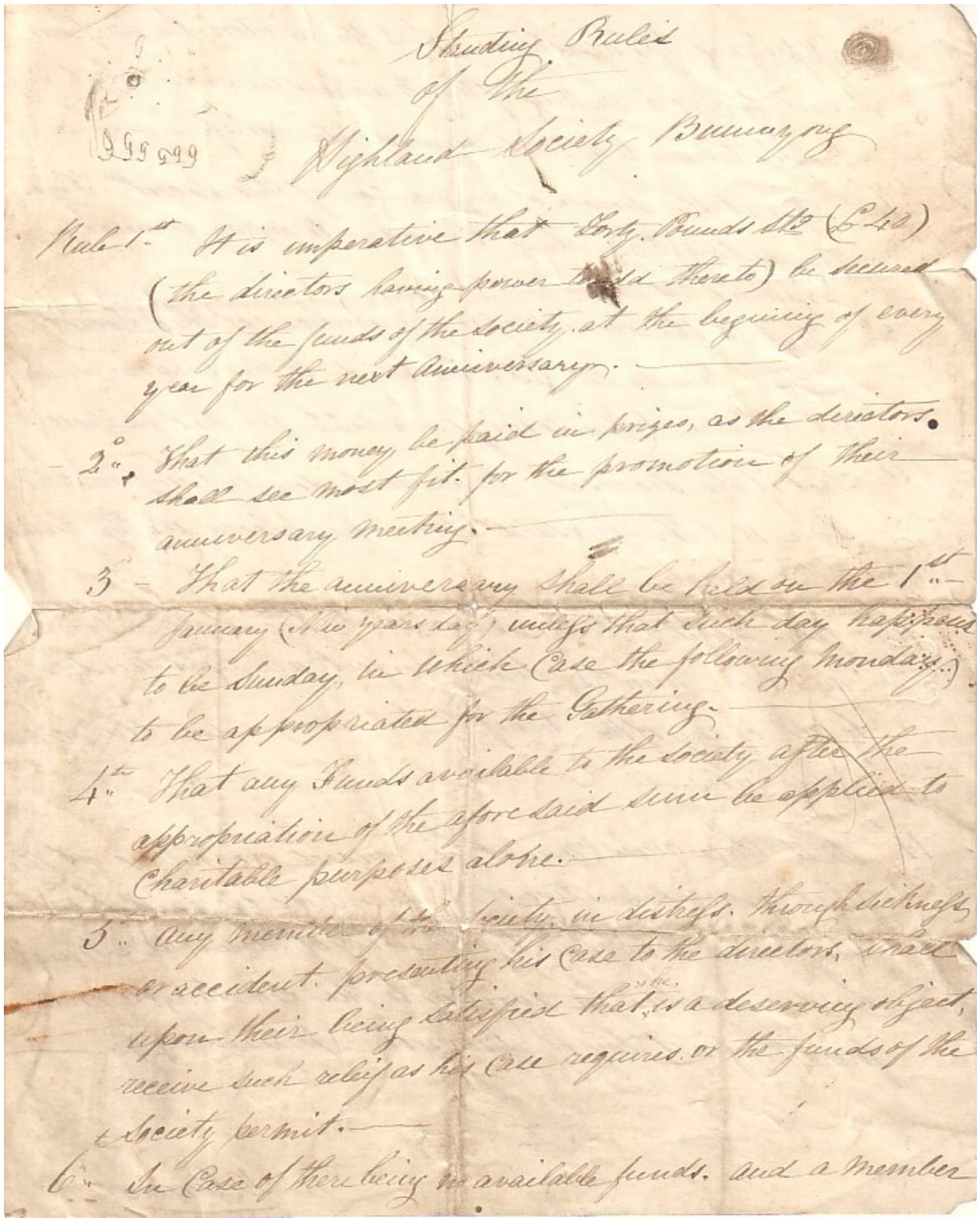
11th. That these rules cannot be revised excepting at the first general meeting of the members in each year, any member wishing to alter any of these rules must send in notice in writing to the Secretary on or before the first day of December, (preceding).

(Sgd. D. Gunn)

List of Members for the H. S.

Donald Stewart, Hugh A. McMillan, Donald Gunn, Dugald Cambell, Thomas J. Finlay, Charles Lameret, James McCrew, T.C. McDonald, John Connell, John Kennedy, Eneas Cameron, McLenan, McInnis

Standing Rules of the Highland Society (of) Buninyong, original document



Standing Rules
of the
Highland Society Buninyong

Rule 1st It is imperative that Sixty Pounds Stg (£60)
(the directors having power to add thereto) be secured
out of the funds of the society, at the beginning of every
year for the next Anniversary.

2nd That this money be paid in prizes, as the directors
shall see most fit. for the promotion of their
anniversary meeting.

3rd That the anniversary shall be held on the 1st
January (New years day) unless that such day happens
to be Sunday, in which case the following Monday
to be appropriated for the Gathering.

4th That any Funds available to the society after the
appropriation of the afore said sums be applied to
Charitable purposes alone.

5th Any member of the Society, in distress through sickness
or accident presenting his case to the directors, shall
upon their being satisfied that it is a deserving object,
receive such relief as his case requires or the funds of the
Society permit.

6th In Case of there being no available funds, and a Member

applying for assistance that the directors be empow-
ered to call a meeting of the members in order that steps
may be taken to afford immediate relief.

7th That at the decease of any member of this society Five
Pounds Sterg (£5) shall be given to defray funeral
expenses.

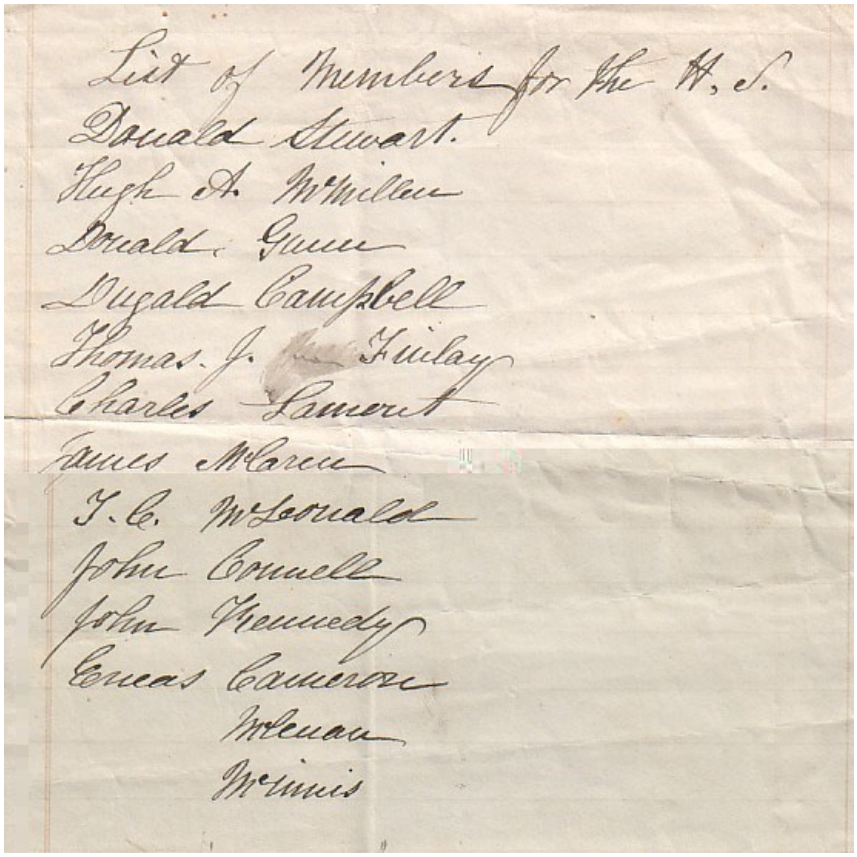
8th That at the decease of any member of this society
Fifteen Pounds Stg (£15) be paid to his widow, or law-
ful Children (Funds being available for this purpose

9 That if the deceased leave no widow or lawful chil-
dren that the aforesaid sum be placed in the funds
of the society.

10th Any member who has not paid up to the society for
three clear months shall forfeit all right and claim
to all or any of the benefits set down in the fore-
going rules.

11th That these rules cannot be revised excepting at the
first general meeting of the members in each year
any member wishing to alter any of these rules must
send in notice in writing to the secretary on or be-
fore the first day of December (preceeding).

D. Gunn


List of Members for the H. S.
Donald Stewart.
Hugh A. McMillan
Donald Gunn
Dugald Campbell
Thomas J. Finlay
Charles Laurent
James McLaren
J. C. McDonald
John Connell
John Kennedy
Eneas Cameron
McLean
McInnis

The Buninyong Highland Society's first 'sports and events' meeting was held at 1pm on 1 January 1858 on the ground below the Presbyterian school house at Buninyong. The President could not be there so Donald Gunn, as Secretary, ran the Games.

On 22 December 1858 the Society applied to the Buninyong Court for permission to fence a piece of common land between Hastie's Spring and Coleman's for the next, first real Highland Games. The applicants were Donald Stewart, Peter Hedrick, Mr McDonald and Donald Gunn.[166]

The second Buninyong Highland Gathering[167] was held on 3 January 1859. D. Gunn[168] was still the Secretary as well as the Gathering Controller and some eight hundred to a thousand people attended.[169] A Melbourne newspaper report said –

The second gathering of this society, which took place yesterday in a paddock adjoining the Geelong road, about a mile beyond the township of Buninyong, was attended with much success. The day was calm and delightful, for the heat of the sun was pleasantly moderated by a cool sea breeze, which prevented those present from being oppressed by the weather. This fact was no doubt one of the great causes which produced an attendance of nearly all Buninyong has of pretty damsels, matronly dames, and stalwart men. Not a few Ballaarat men, too, were present, including most of those who joined in the Gathering on the Ballaarat cricket

[166] Public Records Office Victoria, VPRS 296/2
[167] Page 6, 'The Miner and Weekly Star' 7 January 1859.
[168] Page 6, 'The Argus', 5 January 1859.
[169] http://home.vicnet.net.au/~buninhis/newsletters/feb_06.html accessed 16 November 2020

ground on New Year's Day, and tartan kilts, goat-skin sporrans and Highland caps, were nearly as numerous as on the latter occasion. There could not have been less than 800 or 1,000 people on the ground, who appeared to take the utmost interest in the proceedings. The arrangements, under the control of the energetic secretary, Mr. D. Gunn, were very good, as far as the clearing of the ground was concerned. A paddock was fenced in with palings, and no one was admitted but the competitors, the Committee, and a very few friends, mostly consisting of ladies. The Committee, in deciding upon this regulation, however, failed to provide proper accommodation for many ladies and gentlemen ineligible for admission within the sacred precincts without the payment of a guinea subscription, and who, therefore, were compelled to witness the sports from the hill afar off, at a manifest disadvantage. Not a few grumbled loudly; and it is to be hoped the Committee will in future have more confidence in their own popularity, and provide for a larger attendance. The Secretary, however, very wisely insisted upon the carrying out of the regulations, such as they were, in their integrity, and thus a clear space was kept, without disorder. No untoward event interfered with the pleasantness of the occasion. The spectators mostly belonged to the respectable classes of society; and though Mr. Armitage's booth was filled with thirsty souls the whole day, a drunken man or an angry word were hardly to be seen or heard, nor were the decisions of Messrs. Stewart, M'Lachlan, and Gray, who were the judges, in any way questioned.

The medals of the society, which ware exhibited on the ground, were of the most handsome description, and were manufactured, we were informed, in Geelong. On the obverse was the figure of a Highlander in full costume, with the motto "Lainh na cear tais," the whole surrounded with the words "Highland Society, Instituted 1857." The reverse was left blank to admit of the names of the winners being engraved thereon. The day passed off in the most delightful manner, and though we were compelled to leave before the games were concluded, we doubt not the sports ended as pleasantly as they began.

For Donald's medal, as described above, see the next page. The Gathering realised £340 17s and gave a profit of £60.[170]

It seems Donald did not take any further part in the Buninyong Highland Society after July 1859. This is reasonable as he married in March 1859 (as is detailed in the next chapter) and certainly had moved to Cardigan / Burrumbeet near Ballarat by 1860 and took a great part in local activities there.

[170] Page 5, 'The Argus' 17 January 1860.

Donald was awarded a silver medal by the Buninyong Highland Society on 3 July 1859. He is inscribed as the 'Late Honorary Secretary' so obviously had resigned by then. The medal originally had a large silver brooch attached but this has been lost. The year the Society started (1857) is shown on the front. The diameter is approximately 2¼ inches.

2.2. CARDIGAN / BURRUMBEET
Personal

Soon after starting the abattoir business Donald married[171] Jane Surman (18 Jan 1836[172] – 14 Feb 1908), daughter of Daniel Surman and Mary Ann Watkins, on Friday 25 March 1859 in the Presbyterian school residence at Buninyong. They were married by the Reverend Hastie.

Back; *Donald 1865-1933, Barbara 1870-1941,* ***John Alexander (JA)*** *1860-1910, Mary-Jane 1863-1934, Marcus Daniel 1868-1953*
Front; *William Watkins 1861-1935,* ***Donald*** *1832-1901, Arthur Gilbert 1878-1933, Jane (Surman) 1836-1908, Norman 1872-1944*
Very front; *Catherine Alexandrina 1880-1960*
This family photo was probably taken in 1884 when JA was visiting Ballarat.

[171] Certificate of Marriage, no.157 of marriages solemnized in the District of Buninyong, Donald Gunn, 26, bachelor, of Buninyong, farmer, married Jane Surman, 23, spinster, of Buninyong, teacher, on 25 March 1859.
[172] Jane Surman was born at Hampton Poyle, Oxfordshire and was in the 1841 and 1851 censuses for that village.

John Alexander (called 'J.A.' in his time) was born 11 February 1860 at Buninyong and died 21 September 1910 in Sydney, New South Wales. He left home in 1878 to be a jackaroo at South Yalgogrin Station (a large sheep farm) near Ardlethan in outback New South Wales. By 1886 he was Manager of it after having been the Overseer. JA became a pioneer colonial scientist and bought Borombola Station in the Wagga Wagga region of New South Wales. He then moved to Braehour Station in the same area. His work in creating a vaccine (in conjunction with his wife) for anthrax suitable for Australian conditions deserves greater recognition. He married, with descendants. He was a member of the New South Wales Parliament.

JA's wife was Jessie Marie Turner (born July 1862), son of the Scot William Turner[173] who played a prominent role as banker in the Melbourne 1880s land boom period. William Turner had been an unpaid teacher at Buninyong from 1 October 1862 to 31 December 1862 – it is probable that a friendship developed with the Gunns as how else would his daughter who was a high society, well-educated Melbourne girl (she went to P.L.C. and matriculated in Algebra, Geometry, English, French, German, Arithmetic, Geography and Elementary Physics), get to know JA let alone marry him in 1886? She also deserves more recognition as she looked after JA's laboratory.

For more on JA and his wife, see the following biography.

William Watkins was born 26 December 1861 at Cardigan and died 24 June 1935 at Crossover, Gippsland, Victoria. He married, with descendants. After initially working for JA at South Yalgogrin William moved to Gippsland by 1884 and established a sawmill business there.

Mary Jane was born 18 January 1864 at Cardigan and died 7 May 1934 at Werribee, Victoria at her younger sister Barbara's house called Braemore. Mary Jane was unmarried. She was in charge of the housekeeping and the children at JA's Borombola Station by 1897 and probably earlier. She was a licensed vaccinator of the anthrax vaccine by 1903.

Donald was born 20 November 1865 at Burrumbeet and died 29 December 1933 at Crossover. He married late and had no descendants. Donald was working at Crossover by 1899. He is recorded as a timber worker at the time of his death. He mined gold near Buchan at some point.

Marcus Daniel was born 11 May 1868 at Burrumbeet and died 1 December 1953 at South Yarra, Melbourne. He married, with descendants. Marcus worked at JA's Borombola Station near Wagga Wagga as early as 1888 and was acting Manager there by 1903.

Barbara was born 20 June 1870 at Burrumbeet and died 17 July 1941 at Werribee South, Victoria. Schoolteacher. She married, with descendants.

Norman was born 11 May 1872 Burrumbeet and died 15 November 1944 in South Yarra, Melbourne. He was unmarried. He worked in 1903 at JA's Borombola station. He served in World War One at Gallipoli and later at the Somme in France where he was wounded. His occupation when enrolling for the war was 'agent' - presumably an insurance agent. He was left permanently disabled after his wartime chest injury.

Hugh, was born 28 October 1875 Burrumbeet and died 24 June 1879 at Burrumbeet.

[173] William was born at Kirkconnel, Dumfriesshire, Scotland 3 October 1831 and died at Braehour on 14 November 1919. For more information see my *William Turner: Selected Writings*.

Arthur Gilbert was born 19 May 1878 and died 18 June 1933 at Ivanhoe, Melbourne. He married, with descendants. He worked in Kalgoorlie by 1905. By 1916 he was a businessman in Ballarat.

Catherine was born 13 September 1880 Burrumbeet and died 13 August 1960 Melbourne. She was a member of the Australian Army Massage Service in World War One. She never married.

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The sister and brother Jane Surman and John Watkins Surman had emigrated with their parents in 1855 to Australia.[174] Jane and John ran, from 1857, the Buninyong Boarding School which was the first inland school in the Port Phillip District (as Victoria was called before it became a separate Colony from New South Wales). The school had both boarding and day pupils - the boarders were itinerant workers' children. It had been established by the Reverend Hastie of the Scottish 'Free' Presbyterian Church of Victoria with support from Thomas Learmonth. The Reverend Hastie later became Moderator[175] of the Presbyterian Church of Victoria in 1865. It was a school during the week but a Church on Sunday until 1860 when a separate Church was built.

Given the lack of a Presbyterian Church at Buninyong, that the school was a Presbyterian boarding school, that Jane was a teacher and that the school had been set up by the Reverend Hastie one can see why Donald and Jane were married at the residence of that school.

Donald's younger sister Janet migrated in 1864 and married John Watkins Surman on 12 May of that year.[176] Janet may not have been very literate - certainly an early 1860s letter by her suggests that. She had looked after her grandfather Donald Gunn of Braehour and Brawlbin until his death in 1861, her grandmother Catherine Osclay Gunn and possibly others, in Scotland. Janet certainly had the idea of moving to Australia as early as September 1858 but various members of the extended family in Scotland were aware – it is shown in various letters held by the author - that they would be inconvenienced if Janet went to Australia so I suspect she had emotional pressure placed on her to stay in Scotland for an extended period. Janet and John married at 'Donald's farm' in Cardigan – see the following paragraph - according to the rites of the Presbyterian Church of Victoria; he was 33, she was 30. There are many descendants, mostly in Gippsland.

'Donald's farm?' An undated provisional document has Donald buying / leasing a farm at Cardigan in partnership with John Watkins Surman, his 'double' brother-in-law for £250, paid by both of them, but bought in the name of Gunn. There was to have been a manager – this suggests it was not a farm at which Donald was expected to live. It makes sense that this document was probably written around the period 1857 - August 1860 when John still taught at Buninyong and whilst Donald ran the abattoir there in at least 1857 / 1858 and probably for some time after. I suspect the manager issue was readily solved – Daniel Surman, father of Jane Surman and John Watkins Surman, died 'at his late residence, the farm of Messrs Gunn and Surman'[177] on 21 October

[174] Unknown newspaper, '... in 1855 he arrived in Victoria with his parents and only sister, the latter being Mrs Gunn, of Doveton Street North.'
[175] An earlier moderator of the Presbyterian Church of Victoria in 1861 was the Reverend Andrew Love of Geelong. His sister married William Turner who is discussed on page 20. The Reverend Love's grand-daughter was the celebrated female Australian World War One artist Iso Rae. The Reverend Love's brother John was a noted early Geelong and Melbourne photographer.
[176] John Watkins Surman arrived in Australia in 1855, taught at Buninyong in 1857, then moved in August 1860 to teach at Windermere State School for the nearly exclusively Presbyterian farming children and taught there until 1892. The school is now called Cardigan State School. John Watkins Surman was appointed as Postmaster at Cardigan 1 January 1861. By 1867 Donald is the named postmaster for Cardigan – see the next page.
[177] Page 2, The Ballarat Star' 22 October 1869.

1869. There is also a record of 'Surman's farm' in Cardigan in November 1865.[178] In other words, the Cardigan farm bought by Donald and John became the home of Donald's parents-in-law.

By 1860 Donald either owned or leased a farm in the Burrumbeet area[179] - it was no more than a mile from Lake Burrumbeet and adjoined the Ercildoune estate. The farm was of at least two hundred acres[180] and he probably stayed there for at least twenty-six years. It is possible that he first bought one farm, sold it and moved to another one nearby for twenty-years. A third alternative is that he initially lived at the joint Gunn / Surman farm at Cardigan which would make some sense if he was still commuting to Buninyong. This option would also explain why his second and third children were born at Cardigan. Donald was certainly the rate-payer of a Burrumbeet farm from at least 1865 to 1886. As already discussed, Donald also had some land at Windermere which was leased to the Buninyong abattoir by 1864.

Many letters exist to Donald from Scotland mainly concerned with assorted, detailed family gossip. It includes much on his sister Janet Gunn and how well she had - or had not - been treated in Scotland. And much on his two uncles and grandmother and the stresses of life in Scotland. But these letters are not seen after 1864. Did the Scottish Gunns stop writing or were the letters lost?

Donald applied on 6 June 1865 for twenty acres of unoccupied Crown land – called the Commons - at Windermere of which he was the manager. Windermere abuts both Burrumbeet (it is east of Burrumbeet) and Cardigan (being north of Cardigan). John Watkins Surman also made application as, separately, did Daniel Surman and Donald Campbell[181] (who was a very near relative of Donald Gunn). Donald Gunn's view was that the Commons should remain 'common land' for all but if that was not to be the case then it was within his right to apply.[182]

In 1867 Donald Gunn was the named person[183] for the Post Office at Cardigan, for how long it was in his name is not clear. Donald may have been the appointed Postmaster but I suspect it was his father and mother-in law who ran it as Cardigan matched where they lived; Donald by then was certainly living on a farm at Burrumbeet and that was a major business as by 11 February 1868 Donald had various employees including several Chinese and by February 1873 Donald needed at least fourteen or fifteen men.[184]

[178] Page 2, 'The Ballarat Star' 1 November 1865.
[179] The 1869 *Post Office Directory* lists Donald Gunn farmer twice (one above the other), once for Burrumbeet and once for Cardigan; was the Cardigan entry for his father-in-law's farm which was in Donald's name?
[180] 1867 figures.
[181] Donald Campbell was the son of May Gunn who was the younger sister of Barbara Gunn, Donald Gunn's mother. Donald Campbell is buried in the Gunn family plot in the Old Cemetery in Ballarat.
[182] Page 23, 'The Ballarat Star' 19 September 1865.
[183] https://www.google.co.uk/books/edition/Directory_for_Shires_and_Road_Boards_in/sWxZAAAAcAAJ?hl=en&gbpv=1&dq=cardigan+burrumbeet&pg=PA7&printsec=frontcover accessed 14 December 2020.
[184] Page 2, 'The Ballarat Star' 6 February 1873.

Community involvement
Ballarat and District Agricultural and Pastoral Society

Donald was on the Council of the Ballarat and District Agricultural and Pastoral Society by 1860 and stayed on that Council until 1899.[185] He was elected one of the Vice Presidents in December 1867[186] and was President in 1872.[187] Donald, unusually, only served one year as President - the short term was because he was appointed President of Ballaratshire on 11 November 1872 (see the next section): to simultaneously hold both positions would have been an enormous time demand. Donald was again a Vice President in 1883.

In March 1865 Donald was part of a delegation – as a member representing the 'Ballarat Agricultural Society[188]' – which welcomed the Governor of Victoria, Sir Charles Darling, to Ballarat. In 1872 he represented the society in Melbourne, helping appoint the Secretary to the Agricultural Department.[189] He was also one of three judges[190] who inspected farms in several areas of Victoria, including Ballarat and Kyneton, in December 1883. Again, he was the Ballarat Agricultural Society representative. There were prizes of £50, £30 and £20 on offer, these had been donated by Sir William Clarke, the largest landowner in Victoria.

Donald also regularly entered the Ballarat and District Agricultural and Pastoral Society shows, for example in 1869 he entered the Draught Mare section but was not placed in the awards, but he did win the sheepdogs group.[191]

Donald was appointed before 11 October 1883 to be a paid sheep shearing inspector for entrants to the Ballarat Agricultural Society Show.[192] He would visit 'the stations and farms upon receipt of written notice, and after satisfying himself that the sheep have been evenly, equally and fairly shorn, (would) … brand them and give the owner a certificate to that effect.'[193] At a 7 April 1884 meeting of the Society it was reported[194] that 'There

[185] Page 6, 'The Argus' 11 May 1871.
[186] Page 4, 'The Ballarat Star' 9 December 1867.
[187] Page 7, 'The Age', 09 Nov 1872.
[188] Being various newspaper reports short version of the 'Ballarat and District Agricultural and Pastoral Society.'
[189] Page 6, 'The Argus', 9 November 1872.
[190] Page 4, 'The Ballarat Star' 27 November 1883.
[191] Page 5, 'Weekly Times' 16 October 1869.
[192] Page 5, 'The Argus' 11 October 1883: BALLARAT. WEDNESDAY. The Ballarat Agricultural Society has appointed Mr Donald Gunn of Burrumbeet as inspector of sheep which have been shorn and intended for exhibition at the Society's sheep show in September, 1884. Mr Gunn visits the stations and farms upon receipt of written notice and after satisfying himself that the sheep have been evenly, equally, and fairly shorn, will brand them and give the owner a certificate to that effect. The inspector's fee is £3 3s, to be paid at the time of inspection. The Ercildoune sheep have all been certified, and next week the Caringham, Ellingrerrin, Barunah Plains and Berry Bank stations will be visited.
[193] Page 5, 'The Argus' 11 October 1883.
[194] Page 6, 'The Argus' 3 March 1884. And page 7, 'The Argus' 7 April 1884: THE BALLARAT SHOW SHEEP. BALLARAT, SATURDAY The dispute between the Ballarat Agricultural Society and Mr C. Ayrey, of Woronooke station respecting his sheep entered for the next annual show was finally settled at the monthly meeting to-day. At the last meeting a resolution was carried that, as Mr Ayrey had withdrawn his refusal to allow his sheep to be inspected by the society's inspector, the original motion debarring him from competing, and returning his offer of a £50 donation, should be rescinded. There was a large attendance of members, in anticipation of an unfavourable report from the inspector when the minutes were read.
The President (Mr Philip Russell), said the minutes were scarcely in accordance with the spirit of the resolution. It was understood that the motion for rescinding the action taken was carried conditionally upon the inspector's report being favourable to the state of Mr Ayrey's sheep. If the minutes were now confirmed, as just read, Mr Ayrey was entirely exonerated no matter what the tenor of Mr Gunn's report might be. If the meeting adopted them without hearing the report he should refuse to take any further responsibility, and vacate the chair.
Mr G G MORTON thought the chairman should not attempt to coerce the other members by threatening to vacate the chair. Several members said the impression they were under was that the motion was carried contingent upon the inspector's report.
Mr ROWE said that if the minutes were adopted, Mr Ayrey would leave that meeting without the slightest stigma on his name.
Mr GUNN said the question was, were the minutes correct or incorrect? If they were correct then they must be confirmed.
After some further discussion a motion was carried confirming the minutes and the president … ruled that the inspector's report could not be read.
Mr MORTON remarked that whatever Mr Russell had done in this matter, they all gave him credit for acting in a disinterested manner, and wholly in the interests of the society. He had however, been carried away by over zeal and ... the matter should be allowed to drop.
At a subsequent stage a letter was read from Mr Robert Simson owner of the Langi Kal Kal station with reference to the refusal to allow his sheep to be inspected. It transpired that the cause was a slight misunderstanding between the manager and the inspector and no action was taken.

was a large attendance of members, in anticipation of an unfavourable report from (Donald)' with the implication being that he was known for his direct way of speech and high standards. And 'with two exceptions, there was not a holding on which he did not find the sheep improperly shorn — in some instances as much as 50 per cent.' That meeting also included discussion of a problem caused by an earlier report from him.

Donald was again appointed an Inspector of the shearing for the Ballarat and District Agricultural and Pastoral Society[195] in July 1886 – he was paid £60 for six weeks work and £1 for every station visited. Donald being appointed to paid positions by the society from at least 1883 may reflect Donald's monetary problems from at least 1883. This issue is discussed elsewhere in this life.

The Society had a tradition of ploughing matches. The first was held on 10 July 1856. These matches became grander over the years – by 1883 they involved competitors from other Australian colonies. The 20 - 21 July 1883 match involved Donald as Vice-President. 'The Ballarat Star' review of the second day is of note –

THE INTERCOLONIAL CHAMPION PLOUGHING MATCH SECOND DAY—FRIDAY.
...There was not much for visitors to see at Burrumbeet yesterday, but nevertheless there was at times a little excitement. An aboriginal known as "King Billy of Burrumbeet," the last of a once numerous race, paraded the ground, with boomerang in hand, during the day. The old fellow, who was slightly under the influence of liquor, gave several exhibitions of his skill in using the native weapon. At the end of each performance the blackfellow would go round and ask for money. Upon being refused on one occasion, King Billy cried out, "Why do you not give; you should give me money; you live in my country..."

In reply to a question, Mr Gunn, the inspector, said that as the system was on its trial he had refrained from selecting any station for special report; but he could inform the committee that with two exceptions there was not a holding on which he did not find the sheep improperly shorn - in some instances as much as 50 per cent.
[195] Page 6, 'The Ballarat Star' 5 July 1886.

Ballaratshire Councillor and J.P.

Donald was interested in political movements of the day; there is record of this in his Buninyong days and in September 1864 he participated in a meeting of 'The Anti-Transportation Movement' at Learmonth; British convicts were continuing to be transported to Western Australia. Donald proposed a motion – ''That this meeting records a unanimous opinion that the introduction of transported convicts into any of the Australasian colonies is calculated to lower the tone of public morals, and to create and promote social evils of a most alarming character the whole of these colonies' … He stated that if Western Australia required convicts, Victoria could send them hers.'[196]

Donald became very involved with local politics. He stood for election as Councillor for the South Riding of the Ballaratshire Council in early August 1865 but was defeated 89 votes to 67 votes. An extraordinary election for the South Riding was held later that month which Donald won. This meant he became a Councillor on 30 August 1865 and continued as one until 10 June, 1867. Donald was re-elected to the Shire of Ballarat Council for the South Riding on 15 August 1870 (he won 217 votes to his opponent's 152) and was President of the Shire from 11 November 1872 until 12 October 1874 whilst still representing the South Riding. As already mentioned, Donald was also President of the Ballarat and District Agricultural and Pastoral Society in 1872. Donald was sworn in as a Justice of the Peace on the 30 December 1873, perhaps in consequence of becoming President and he did work as a J.P. over the years.[197] Donald lost the August 1876 election and so ended his Ballaratshire political career.

The Shire meetings were held every second Monday at 1pm. The duties of a Councillor were varied. There were the normal meetings[198] in one of which Donald moved a motion[199] saying the Shire Council should pay the medical fees of those contracting scarlet fever and not able to pay for it themselves. This seems a modern idea arguing for state support for the poor. There were also formal dinners to attend.

The railways were crucial for opening up land to farmers. Donald (or more accurately, presumably, his wife and servants) provided lunch to the Minister of Railways and various Councillors at his home at Burrumbeet 7 January 1873 whilst President. Following that event, a public meeting was held in February - the issue was where to have a new railway station at Burrumbeet. Donald chaired that meeting and some viewed it as 'rowdy.'[200] Basically the core of the problem was that the chosen place for the new Station was – or was not - wrong. The suggestion in the newspaper report was that the meeting was stacked with workers from the Ercildoune estate who wanted it where it had been chosen to be but the rest of the locals wanted it on 'Gunn's Corner.'[201] Was the Ercildoune estate better connected to the Minister of Railways than other locals? One suspects so - it seems the railway station was not built on 'Gunn's Corner.' Donald again met with the Minister of Railways in December 1873, again he represented the Ballaratshire Council.

Various other locally important events filled Donald's life in the early 1870s - the Governor of Victoria twice visited Ballarat and Donald escorted him in May and June 1873. Donald was appointed to the newly formed

[196] Page 6, 'The Argus' 22 September 1864.
[197] Page 4, 'The Ballarat Courier' 22 January 1878.
[198] Page 6, 'The Argus' 19 April 1873.
[199] Page 6, 'The Argus' 8 December 1875.
[200] Page 2, 'The Ballarat Star' 6 February 1873.
[201] Page 2, 'The Ballarat Star' 6 February 1873.

Ballarat Local Forest Board on 9 September 1873.[202] In 1874 he campaigned to improve Lake Burrumbeet.[203] In May 1874 he attended a meeting of the Ballarat Farmers' Club[204] which included a talk about how to possibly cure fluke infected sheep; Donald seconded the motion of thanks. Did he discuss this meeting at home and stimulate his eldest son's interest in curing diseases in animals? But Donald also undertook other activities as part of his Council duties – for example, he visited a poor woman who was meant to be living in a hovel without the necessities of life in 1876 and tried to help her.[205] Was Donald supportive of the poor due to his early life in Scotland?

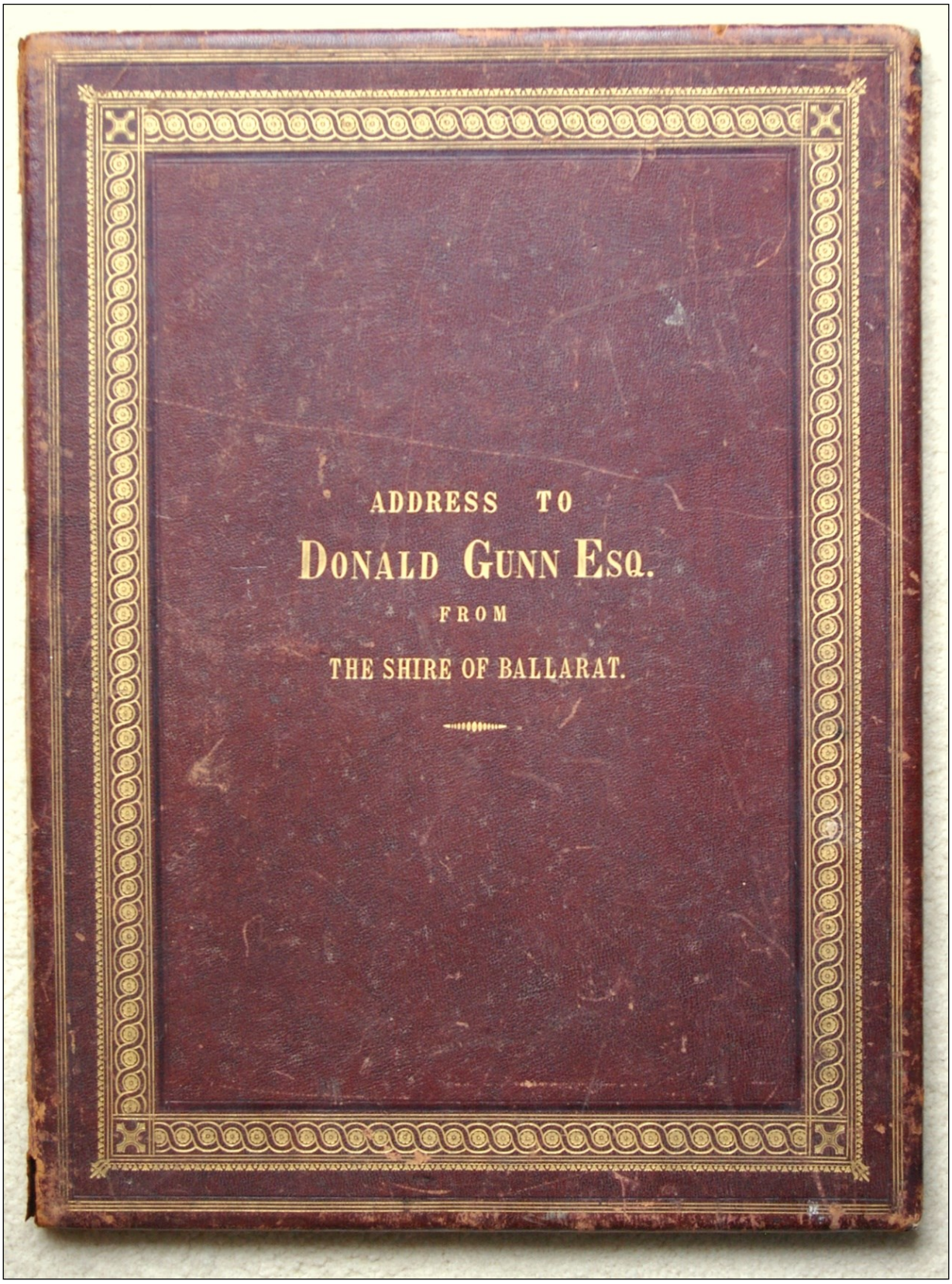
His local fame was considerable and he was considered in February 1874, whilst still President of the Council, as a candidate for Parliament for the seat of Ripon and Hampden but he was not prepared to consider it unless 'requisitioned by voters from all parts of the electorate.' [206]

After losing the Council August 1876 election there was a banquet and presentation in his honour held at the Stag Hotel in Learmonth in December to commemorate his work for the Council. 'The Ballarat Courier'[207] wrote –

Mr. Donald Gunn JP, ex-councillor for the south riding of Ballaratshire, was, at the instance of that body, entertained at the Stag Hotel, Learmonth ... on the occasion of presenting that gentleman with an address, in token of the esteem in the ten years he had the honor to hold a seat on that council. Between thirty and forty gentlemen ... assembled to do honor to the occasion, and the gathering was, to say the least of it, a most gratifying expression of approval of his ability not only as councillor but also as president of the shire, which position he held two years in succession ... The chairman (of the banquet) *then called upon Mr Richmond, as secretary of the shire, to read the address to Mr Gunn which was as follows: - 'To Donald Gunn, Esq. J.P., Burrumbeet. Sir, We, the president and councillors of the shire of Ballarat, desire to convey to you our warm appreciation of the very energetic and valuable services rendered by you as president of the shire and councillor for the south riding. We beg to acknowledge the impartial and gentlemanly manner in which you presided over all meetings of the council during your term of the presidentship, and your steady and consistent advocacy of all measures affecting the welfare of the shire, as a councillor for a period exceeding ten years. In conclusion we sincerely wish you, Mrs Gunn, and family long life and prosperity. Sealed and signed by the president and secretary.' The address, which was handsomely bound in morocco ... was then handed to Mr Gunn ... Mr Gunn briefly responded, and said that he received this expression of their good feeling towards him in the warmest way possible .... If in any way he could further the interests of Ballaratshire he would be most happy to do so. If the south riding did not think that he was fit to represent them, he was proud to see every one of his colleagues present to do him honor. ...*

Donald was obviously popular and his work for the community was appreciated even though the South Riding, finally, did not return him.

[202] Page 6, 'The Argus' 9 September 1873: BALLARAT FOREST BOARD. A Ballarat Local Forest Board, the 'Ballarat Courier' states, has been appointed by the Hon, the Minister of Lands. It will have the control and management of all state forests in the shires of Ballarat, Creswick, Bungaree, Buninyong, Ballan, and Meredith, and consist of the following members:- ... Donald Gunn, president, to represent the Council of the Shire of Ballarat; ... - provided that, if any person so appointed shall cease to hold office as specified, he shall thereupon also cease to be a member of the Ballarat Local Forest Board.
[203] Page 21, 'The Leader' 8 August 1874.
[204] Page 4, 'The Ballarat Star' 18 May 1874.
[205] Page 3, 'The Argus' 14 June 1876.
[206] Page 4, 'The Ballarat Star' 7 February 1874.
[207] Page 4, 'The Ballarat Courier' 13 December 1876.



The presented Address. It is approximately 20½ inches long by 15½ inches wide.

The presented Address.

Personal, continued

The rural world continued. It is recorded that for the Gunns in the 'late summer of 1876-1877, while living at Burrumbeet, there was a heavy storm during the night and in the morning the tubs, buckets, plough furrows, and every depression that held water were full of a small fish similar to whitebait, and from 2 1/2 in. to 3 in. in length … they must have numbered hundreds of thousands.'[208]

Donald Gunn was still busy - he won a silver medal at the Paris Exhibition[209] of May to November 1878 in Class 69 (Cereals, Farinaceous Products and Products derived from them) with his exhibit of one bushel of Frampton wheat. The Exhibition was on a sixty-six acre site with half the space given to French exhibits and the other half to the rest of the world; the award was made by an International Jury.

Over the years much detail exists for all sorts of auctions of Donald's livestock, farming implements, crops and land. The newspapers of the day record various auction dates for him including 16 April 1868, 2 April 1869, 3 February 1870, 25 March 1870, 27 Nov 1873 and 20 Feb 1879. These events seem odd for a committed farmer.

As well, the lease on the Burrumbeet farm was to run out on 31 March 1882, the farm at this time was in two parts – one of 815 acres, the other of 316 acres on which was the accommodation. This approaching end of lease meant by March 1881 Donald had given up cropping and was just grazing animals. Consequently, he sold in that month assorted items no longer required including forks, rakes, weighing machines, ploughs and much, much more. There was also a major auction on 1 December 1881 of his growing crop. But Donald changed his mind or found some more money – in March 1886 he was still a farmer at Burrumbeet[210] but had 'inflammation of the lungs' and so could not attend the Ballarat Agricultural and Pastoral Society meeting of 7 March. Donald stayed on his farm till sometime around mid-1886.

This continual auctioning of items and leaving / not leaving the farm has only one logical reason – Donald was a speculator (or possibly gambler) who regularly lost money. His grandson John William Gunn,[211] who was the eldest son of William Watkins Gunn (the second son of Donald Gunn), recorded that Donald was a 'whisky drinker … (who) Lost his money.' Failed speculation explains why a lifelong farmer kept selling his items and stock. And why else would Donald, who certainly ran a major farm for many years, end his days in Ballarat moving from rented accommodation to rented accommodation? See Chapter 2.3. As already discussed, Donald also took paid work with the Ballarat and District Agricultural and Pastoral Society from at least 1883 onwards; it suggests a need for cash. It is worth noting that his friend William Turner,[212] the Melbourne banker and father of his eldest son's wife, was a major speculator who also lost his wealth. The main Victorian speculation was on land which would suit a farmer's hopes.

In between his financial issues, farming, family and meetings Donald enjoyed sporting activities. In November 1864 he helped with the Lake Learmonth regatta as a Steward. He participated in pigeon shooting as one 'one of the leading sportsmen' of the area[213] in April 1871. He also coursed dogs with some success, in 1879 and

[208] Page 4, 'The Argus', 19 November 1920.
[209] Page 5, 'The Ballarat Star' 25 August 1883.
[210] Page 4, 'The Ballarat Star' 8 March 1886.
[211] John William Gunn — his notes, held in 1996 by Dorothy Margaret Jenkin (nee Milner): 'Donald - whisky drinker and bought station near Ararat beyond Ercildoune. Lost his money…'.
[212] See page 20 for more information on William Turner. Page 237 Michael Cannon *Land Boom and Bust* – 'William Turner … made a secret composition (bankruptcy arrangement) with his creditors in September 1892. His debts totalled more than £24,000, on which he was able to pay 3d in the £1 … Cause of insolvency: speculation in land and shares.'
[213] Page 4, 'The Ballarat Star' 25 April 1871.

1882 and presumably at other times. He was also was involved with 'The Ballarat Hounds' – or fox hunting – to some degree in 1889 when he was part of those who drove on the roads following the pack.[214] Presumably he may have participated at an earlier time.

Donald also remained part of the wider community. Many examples of his involvement exist including him chairing the farewell to Mr Duncan Robertson in September 1873[215] (which event had over seventy 'gentlemen' present), being elected as the Learmonth Branch delegate to go to the Melbourne Conference of the Victorian Farmers Union in 1879[216] and addressing a meeting in June 1881 about the operation of the new Stamp Act. He also chaired the annual Prize Giving at the local school in February 1885.

But life had its sad times – Donald Campbell, mentioned elsewhere in this life, spent many years living with Donald and Jane. He died at their home in March 1885 and his remains were interred in the Gunn plot with Donald, Jane, Hugh and Mary-Jane.

Donald was Past Master of the Ballarat branch of the Lodge Order of St Andrew Friendly Society by no later than 1886.[217] The title of the Society shows its Scottish interest. Its interests included helping its members in times of trouble. In 1892 the Lodge presented

Br Donald Gunn with a testimonial in recognition of his long and valued services as librarian to the lodge. The library has just been replenished, and now contains a first-class assortment of standard works and the most popular productions of modern authors. Br John Ross, W. M. made the presentation, which consisted of a splendid gold embossed item manufactured by Br A. T. Thompson, of Main street, and referred to Br Gunn's lengthy services to the lodge. Br Gunn suitably replied, and referred to the change which had been made in the status of the society, whereby the order is now prepared to accept candidates of any nationality provided they are of good character, and that with the splendid library and additional attraction offered the membership list would show a considerable increase by the end of the year.[218]

But by early 1886 Donald – and his family's time - at the farm was over. That also meant leaving the local Presbyterian community. 'The Ballarat Star' of Tuesday 23 March 1886 recorded that

An interesting meeting of the congregation assembled, in the Presbyterian Church, Burrumbeet, on Friday evening last, for the purpose of saying farewell to the family of Mr Donald Gunn, J.P. who is leaving Burrumbeet. The Rev. Mr Thomson occupied the chair, and in a few well-chosen words expressed on behalf of the congregation, the esteem in which the family was held, and the sorrow felt that they were leaving the district, at the same time expressing most earnest wishes for their future welfare. He then presented Mrs Gunn with a very handsome workbox and writing desk combined, and Miss Gunn (Mary Jane Gunn) *and Miss Barbara Gunn with a pair of handsome bracelets. The young ladies have acted as organists to the church, while the many services Mrs Gunn has rendered the church during her 22 years residence are too numerous to particularise. Mr Gunn, on behalf of his wife and daughters, suitably responded … I understand that it is the intention of Mr Gunn's friends to give that gentleman a farewell banquet on the 15th prox., and from the wide circle of friends which Mr Gunn has gained the affair is certain to be not only well attended but a most enjoyable and gratifying leave-taking on the part of all.*

[214] Page 25, 'The Australasian' 3 August 1889.
[215] Page 4, 'The Ballarat Star' 8 September 1873.
[216] Page 3, 'The Argus' 8 October 1879.
[217] Page 11, 'The Ballarat Star' 15 January 1887 - 'It was decided to have Past Master Br Donald Gunn's name placed on the merit board and to present him with a handsome certificate for the efficient manner in which he had conducted business during his term of office.'
[218] Page 10, 'The Ballarat Star' 18 February 1892.

Of interest are the significant roles played in the Burumbeet Presbyterian Church (which was actually in Windermere) by Donald's wife Jane and their two daughters. Jane's brother William Watkins Surman was a Burrumbeet Presbyterian Church stalwart - he not merely helped physically build this church but also conducted services there. Donald did not receive a gift; was Donald too busy elsewhere to fully involve himself with church activities?

The previously mentioned farewell banquet to Donald was later reported in 'The Ballarat Star' of Saturday 17 April 1886 –

BANQUET TO MR DONALD GUNN J.P.
A complimentary banquet was tendered to Mr Donald Gunn, J.P. of Burrumbeet, at the Two Bridges hotel, on Thursday, evening, on the occasion of that gentleman's leaving the farm he has occupied for over 20 years. – When it became known that Mr Gunn was about to sever his connection with the distinct, a meeting of his friends was held to consider the best means of tendering a public farewell to a prominent resident of the shire and magistrate of the district, and it was resolved that Mr Gunn be invited, to a banquet, and a committee was formed to bring the affair to a successful issue, Cr John Innes, of Windermere being appointed chairman; and Cr John King, of Two Bridges, secretary. The banquet on Thursday night showed how successful these two gentlemen had been in their efforts, about 60 gentlemen sitting down to a recherche spread after Host Comber's best style. Mr G. G. Morton, J.P. of Labona, occupied the chair, and, Messrs Baird and King the vice-chairs, having round them gentlemen connected with every interest in the neighborhood, most of the surrounding districts being also well represented. After ample justice had been done to the good things provided, toasting and songs became the order of the night. The following is the programme observed:— The toast of "The Queen," by the chairman. Apologies were here tendered for President Rennie, Major Greenfield, and Mr Quinliyan. "The Governor," by the chairman; "Parliament," by Cr J. Baird, responded to by Mr Uren, M.L.A.; "Our Guest," by the chairman; song, by Mr Cox. Mr Gunn then responded in an appropriate and feeling manner, referring to the many pleasant relationships existing between himself, the members of his family, and his neighbors. "The Agricultural and Pastoral Interests," by Mr J. W- H. Lugg." Responded to by Messrs Bath and Baird. "The Commercial Interest," by Mr H Curwen-Walker. Response by Mr R. Tunbridge. Recitation, Mr M'Cubbin. "The City of Ballarat," by Mr B. Hepburn. Response by Mayor Salter. "The Mining Interest," by Mr Bath. Song, Mr M'Donald. Response by Mr.M'Cubbin. "The Shire of Ballarat," by Mr Lester. Response by Cr J. Dalgleish and Cr. John lnnes. Recitation, Mr Hunter. "The Ladies," by Cr John Spiers, Song Mr M'Donald, Response by Mr R. Dalgleish and Mr H. Bregenzer. "The Press," by Cr J. Dalgleish. Responded to by Mr Lugg on behalf of the Ballarat papers. "The Host and Hostess," by Mr. Moncrieff. Responded to by Mr Comber. Toast, "Chairman and Vice-Chairman," by Mr Gunn, and responded to. During the evening, advantage was taken of the presence of Mr H. Curwen Walker (who is also leaving the district), to toast his health and that of his family. From the tenor of the remarks of the various speakers, it is evident that Burrumbeet in particular and the Ballaratshire generally, has lost a much appreciated resident. The chairman and other gentlemen pointing to the many services Mr Gunn had rendered the district in his various capacities of member of the road board, councillor and president of the shire, justice of the peace, vice-president of the agricultural society, and other temporary public positions, as evidence of the kind of gentleman they were losing from their midst, one and all joining in wishing him and his family "God-speed." The National Anthem and "Auld lang syne" brought a pleasant and acceptable leave-taking to a successful close

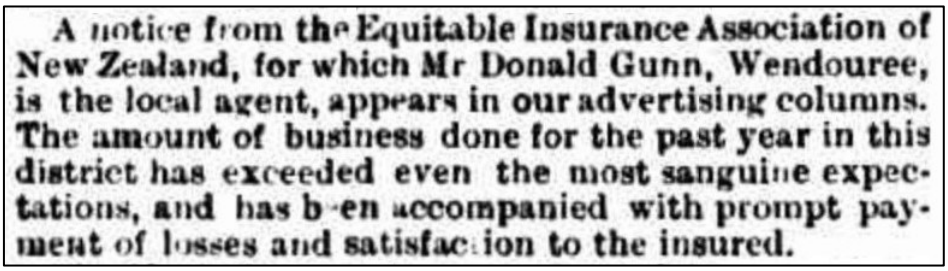
One has to assume that the reason for leaving the farm was that Donald's financial luck finally ran out around mid to late 1886. He was only 54 years old and had worked hard all his life but certainly had employees on the

farm who could do the hard work. He also had enough sons to run a farm – if there was a farm. But the oldest sons had left home – **J.A.** was appointed Manager at South Yalgogrin Station, Ardlethan, New South Wales in 1886. See the next biography for his extraordinary life. His second son, William Watkins, was working in Gippsland by 1884. Donald's third son but fourth child - also called Donald - had been born in 1865. It is not clear what this Donald was doing in 1886 but soon after he worked for William Watkins in Gippsland. In other words, the elder sons had dispersed from the greater Ballarat region; they seemed to have had no expectation of taking over a working farm. Again, this provides support for the idea that Donald lost money.

2.3. BALLARAT
Wendouree

The Gunns moved to Wendouree, on the western fringe of Ballarat, by January 1887[219] but possibly earlier. Donald's farewell banquet was, as already discussed, in April 1886 – it makes sense that they would have moved soon after it.

Money was still needed. At Wendouree Donald worked as an insurance agent which he continued to be for the rest of his life. He worked for a variety of companies, probably many simultaneously, including the Equitable Insurance Association of New Zealand, The Federal Mutual Livestock Insurance Association of Australia Ltd., The South Australian Insurance Company Limited, The Royal Insurance Company and the Lion Fire Insurance Company. There is no record of him being such an agent before leaving Burrumbeet.


A notice from the Equitable Insurance Association of New Zealand, for which Mr Donald Gunn, Wendouree, is the local agent, appears in our advertising columns. The amount of business done for the past year in this district has exceeded even the most sanguine expectations, and has been accompanied with prompt payment of losses and satisfaction to the insured.

Page 2, 'The Ballarat Star' 3 December 1887.

'Mr Donald Gunn, Wendouree' was also the local agent for the Equitable Insurance Association of New Zealand as shown by the above newspaper extract which suggests he has done his job well.

Donald continued with some community work – he was the returning officer for the 'Board of Advice for School District 83'[220] (being the Burrumbeet School) in October 1887. He had not quite given up his past commitment to Burrumbeet.

Donald's home address in Wendouree is not known but the local newspapers have many advertisements by him[221] until 30 May 1888. It is presumed the Gunns left Wendouree sometime between June and December 1888.

[219] Page 13, 'The Australasian' 29 January 1887.
[220] Page 3, 'The Ballarat Star' 19 October 1887.
[221] For example, page 3 'The Ballarat Star' 27 February 1888 and page 1 'The Ballarat Star' 17 May 1888.

109 Doveton Street North, Ballarat

By 15 January 1889[222] the Gunns had moved to 109 Doveton Street North, Ballarat; Doveton Street is now the Midland Highway with huge amounts of redevelopment. Basically, nothing is left of the area from the Victorian times bar the occasional hotel and odd other building which was missed in the redevelopment of the 1960s and 1970s.

Donald continued his involvement with the local community – he chaired a political meeting at Cummins Hotel in Doveton Street on 20 March 1889.[223] And, as already discussed, he was part of the Ballarat branch of the Lodge Order of St Andrew. He also continued to commit to meetings with the Ballarat Agricultural and Pastoral Society, finally though that Society became too much. In September 1899 –

The resignation of Mr D. Gunn from the council of the Ballarat Agricultural and Pastoral Society was received at Saturday's meeting of that body. Mr Gunn wrote, stating that after 39 years' service as a member of the council, he was obliged to tender his resignation owing to his hearing not being good, and consequently he was not able to follow the discussions at the council meetings. He expressed his acknowledgment of the kind and courteous manner in which he had always been treated by the members, and stated that he would always do all he could to further the interests of the society.[224]

Donald's work continued – notices by him for various insurances companies such as the Royal Insurance Company[225] occur in the papers. But a further string to his bow is with real estate – Donald is selling an allotment[226] in Sturt Street Ballarat with 'with six roomed house and four-room house, stabling and outhouses. These dwellings are rented to respectable tenants, and yielding a good income.'

Home life also continued - on 5 March 1890 his second grand-daughter Jessie Jean Gunn was born at Doveton Street. She was the second daughter of JA and Jessie. Their first daughter Gladys Emily Gunn had been born in 1887 at Jessie's father's and stepmother's home of Nithsdale in Brighton, Melbourne - it was normal for daughters to go home to parents to give birth. Why, after the first child, did Jessie go to her in-laws to give birth to her last three children? It is noteworthy that the first two children of William Watkins Gunn were also later born in the homes of the Ballarat Gunns. To have two daughters-in-law breaking societal convention suggests Donald and Jane were very welcoming.

It is not known when Donald and his family left Doveton Street North but it was before late August 1891.[227]

[222] Page 2 'The Ballarat Star' 15 January 1889.
[223] Page 4, 'The Ballarat Star' 21 March 1889.
[224] Page 5, 'The Ballarat Star' 4 September 1899.
[225] Page 4, 'The Ballarat Star' 16 February 1891.
[226] Page 6, 'The Ballarat Star' 16 April 1891.
[227] Page 3, 'The Ballarat Star' 26 August 1891.

32 Brougham Street, Ballarat

By August 1891[228] the Gunns had moved to the corner of Armstrong and Brougham Street – to be more accurate they moved to 32 Brougham Street. Brougham Street intersects Doveton Street North. Today the street has been renumbered and is a place of small, Victorian weatherboard houses. This again supports the idea that Donald lost money as this area was not the home of a retired, wealthy farmer. And this lack of money was compounded by a major economic depression hitting Victoria from the late 1880s.

Did any money ever come from his children? There are no records to say one way or the other but a hint is given in the 1910 will of JA where £150 a year for life was left to his mother Jane even though she was dead by that time. I suspect the £150 a year was the continuation of a yearly allowance in place when the will was drawn up but whether the amount had been issued whilst Donald was alive is not known. Certainly, one understands why JA could have issued an allowance – he was the wealthiest of the children by far and the most senior. Equally one understands why, if the money was issued whilst Donald was alive, it was issued to Jane as Donald had lost enough money and his ego may have made it awkward to accept money.

Donald continued his work as an insurance agent and regularly advertised in the newspapers. For example, 'The Ballarat Star' of 27 July 1892 carried an advertisement saying 'FOR SALE, a FARM of 160 acres near Ballarat, on easy terms; also the goodwill of several good hotels. Apply Donald Gunn. Commission Agent. 32 Brougham Street. Ballarat North.' So, he was not merely an insurance agent but continued as a real estate agent.

Donald and Jane attended the Mayoral Ball[229] in July 1892 and also the return ball[230] given by the Citizens of Ballarat to the Mayor and his Wife. I suspect this was not the first time the Gunns attended such events: Donald was a citizen of note in Ballaratshire even though he had come down in circumstances. His interest in politics had also not waned - in October 1900 Donald chaired a meeting of candidates for the forthcoming Victorian General Election.[231]

Donald was still in Brougham Street on 13 May 1892 as Alexander Donald Gunn, the third child of JA and Jessie, was born there.

It is not clear when the Gunns left 32 Brougham Street. Donald still used the address on 28 July 1892[232] but the Gunns were certainly in their next home by February 1895.

[228] Page 3, 'The Ballarat Star' 27 August 1891.
[229] Page 4, 'The Ballarat Star' 16 July 1892.
[230] Page 4, 'The Ballarat Star' 11 August 1892.
[231] Page 5, 'The Ballarat Star' 6 April 1892.
[232] Page 3, 'The Ballarat Star' 28 July 1892.

185 Lydiard Street, Ballarat

The Gunn family moved to 185 Lydiard Street before 28 February 1895 as another grandson, John William Gunn, was born there on that day. John William was the eldest son of William Watkins Gunn. The second child of William Watkins - Jean Margaret Gunn – was also born at Lydiard Street on 6 April 1896. On 23 May 1895 the fourth child of **JA** and Jessie - Angus William Gunn – was also born at Lydiard Street. To restate, tradition has daughters going to their parents' home to give birth and not to their in-laws, as such these births are a mark in Donald's and Jane's favour. Another significant family event occurred at Lydiard Street – Donald and Jane's daughter Barbara married Isaac Padgett on 29 March 1899. Barbara was teaching at Mt Cole before her marriage.[233] It is probable that of Donald and Jane's children only Arthur Gilbert[234] and Catherine were at home after that marriage.

Donald continued with earning a living selling real estate[235] and being an insurance agent.[236] But drought occurred in the mid-1890s and lasted for a few years so one suspects fewer people would have been buying insurance.[237]

Donald was very ill by 6 February 1901[238] and died on 14 February 1901. He died from broncho-pneumonia and heart disease.[239] The Ballarat Star's comment was

A very old and highly respected resident of Ballarat, in the person of Mr Donald Gunn, insurance agent, died at his home on Soldiers' Hill yesterday. Deceased, who was 68 years of age, had resided in Ballarat for a great number of years, and was probably one of the best known men in the district, where he had made hosts of friends by his genial disposition, and the news of his death will be heard of with regret. He leaves a widow and grown-up family to mourn their loss.[240]

The private funeral was on Saturday 16 February and Donald was interred in the Ballarat Old Cemetery Area in the Gunn plot, namely DN Sec.14 Lot 5, Ballarat, Vic.[241] This plot was bought by JA.[242]

Donald's wife Jane later lived with her youngest daughter Catherine at Clarendon Street according to the 1903 and 1905 electoral rolls. Clarendon Street intersects Lydiard Street. In 1904 their address was 16 Doveton Street according to the Victorian Post Office Directory. Jane died on 14 February 1908 at 616 Lydiard Street[243] – again another move which suggests rental properties. Jane is buried in the same grave as her husband.

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[233] Page 416, D. Gunn, A. Gunn, *Scotland and Beyond; the Families of Donald Gunn (Tormsdale) and John Gunn (Dalnaha, Strathmore and Braehour)*

[234] Arthur married at the Scots Church in Lydiard Street on 3 December 1901when aged 23 years old so suggesting he was at home during Donald's lifetime

[235] For example, page 5, 'The Ballarat Star' 4 September 1895.

[236] Certificate of Death: Vic 1901 24552: 14 February 1901 at Lydiard Street, City of Ballarat, Donald Gunn, 68, insurance agent of broncho pneumonia, cardiac disease and asthma, duration about 3 months…

[237] See Chapter 9, Geoffrey Blainey, *Our Side of the Country: the Story of Victoria.*

[238] Page 4, 'The Ballarat Star' 6 February 1901.

[239] Register of BDMs - Victoria, 1901 253; page 6, 'The Ballarat Courier', Friday 15 Feb 1901, on the 14th February, at 185 Lydiard Street, Donald Gunn, aged 68 years.

[240] Page 5, 'The Ballarat Star' 15 February 1901.

[241] Ballarat Old Cemetery records; Page 4, The Ballarat Courier, 15 February 1901 'the friends of the late Donald Gunn are respectfully informed that his remains will be interred in the old Ballarat Cemetery. The funeral cortege will leave his late residence, 185 Lydiard Street North, on Saturday 16th February at 2 o'clock. Funeral private; Certificate of Death: Vic 1901 24552.'

[242] Ballarat Old Cemetery records.

[243] Register of BDMs - Victoria, 1908 219.

Donald was a major character in the Buninyong and Ballarat areas – he was involved in many Committees and tried to do his best for society. Society also liked him – to restate 'The Ballarat Star' - (Donald) *was probably one of the best known men in the district, where he had made hosts of friends by his genial disposition, and the news of his death will be heard of with regret.*[244]

Donald was one of those friendly men who have real, but local, impact and who was loved by many. Few of us can hope for more.

Donald Gunn's grave at the Old Ballarat Cemetery. It reads –

In Loving Memory
of
Donald Gunn
born at Brawlbin Reay Caithness Scotland
28 March 1832, died 14th Feby 1901
Also his sixth son Hugh
Died 24th June 1879, aged 3 years
His beloved wife
Jane Gunn
born at Hampton Poyle Oxford England
18 Jany 1836, died 14 Feby 1908
And their affectionate friend
Donald Campbell

And on separate plaque below the headstone, see next page - Mary Jane Gunn Died 5th May 1934

[244] Page 5, 'The Ballarat Star' 15 February 1901.

The Gunn and Surman plots at the Ballarat Old Cemetery. The left grave commemorates John Watkins Surman (1831 - 1906) and his wife Jessie (Janet Gunn – Donald's sister) (1834-1913), the middle grave is for John Watkins Surman's parents Daniel Surman (1805-1869) and Mary Ann Surman (1811-1894) and their grandson Watkins Surman (1871 –1875). The right grave is for Donald Gunn (1832-1901), his wife Jane Gunn (1836-1908), his sixth son Hugh (1875-1879), his daughter Mary Jane Gunn (1864 -1934) and for their relative Donald Campbell (1840-1885).

Descendants of Donald Gunn and Jane Surman

Donald GUNN 28 Mar 1832 Brawlbin, Reay Parish, Caithness, d. 14 Feb 1901 Ballarat, Vic
+**Jane SURMAN** b. 18 Jan 1836 Hampton Poyle, Oxfordshire, m. 1859 Buninyong, Vic, d. 14 Feb 1908 Ballarat
- **John Alexander GUNN (Hon.)**[245] b. 11 Feb 1860 Buninyong, Vic, d. 21 Sep 1910 Sydney, NSW
  - +**Jessie Marie TURNER** b. 1862 Beechworth, Vic, m. 1886 North Brighton, Vic, d. 1925 Randwick, NSW[246]
    - **Gladys Emily GUNN** b. 1887 North Brighton, Vic, d. 1968 Melbourne, Vic
    - **Jessie Jean GUNN** b. 1890 Ballarat, Vic, d. 1891 NSW
    - **Alexander Donald GUNN** b. 1892 Ballarat, Vic, d. 1956 Melbourne, Vic
    - **Angus William GUNN** b. 1895 Ballarat, Vic, d. 1926 Perth, WA
- **William Watkins GUNN** b. 26 Dec 1861 Nr Ballarat, Vic, d. 24 Jun 1935 Crossover, Vic
  - +**Margaret Jane BALHARRIE** b. 1860 Perth, Tayside, m. 1891 Bloomfield, Vic, d. 1946 Frankston, Vic
    - **John William GUNN** b. 1895 Ballarat, Vic, d. 1981 Frankston, Vic
    - **Jean Margaret GUNN** b. 1896 Ballarat, Vic, d. 1975 Glenhuntly, Vic
    - **Violet Helen GUNN** b. 1898 Warragul, Vic, d. 1968 Frankston, Vic
    - **Edith Mary GUNN** b. 1899 Warragul, Vic, d. 1901 Sandringham, Vic
    - **Marjorie May GUNN** b. 1904 Warragul, Vic, d. 1970 Launching Place, Vic
    - **Marcus Allan GUNN** b. 1906 Crossover, Vic, d. 1981 Melbourne, Vic
- **Mary Jane GUNN** b. 18 Jan 1864 Cardigan Nr Ballarat, Vic, d. 5 May 1934 Werribee, Vic
- **Donald GUNN** b. 20 Nov 1865 Burrumbeet, Vic, d. 29 Dec 1933 Crossover, Vic
  - +**Amy Agnes WAREHAM** b. Oct 1862 Cheshire, m. 1922 Middle Park, Vic, d. 1939 South Melbourne Vic
- **Marcus Daniel GUNN** b. 11 May 1868 Buninyong, Vic, d. 1 Dec 1952 South Yarra, Vic
  - +**Mary Jane CHENHALL**[247] b. 1873 Chiltern, Vic, m. 1903 Corowa, NSW, d. 1941 Melbourne, Vic
    - **Keith Lindsay GUNN** b. 1904 Corowa, NSW, d. 1967 Melbourne, Vic
    - **Norma Mary GUNN** b. 1907 Corowa, NSW, d. 1971 Melbourne, Vic
- **Barbara GUNN** b. 20 Jun 1870 Burrumbeet, Vic, d. 17 Jul 1941 Werribee, Vic
  - +**Isaac PADGETT** b. 1867 Mount Cole, Vic, m. 1899 Ballarat, Vic, d. 1937 Werribee, Vic
    - **Barbara Gunn PADGETT** b. 1901 Ballarat, Vic, d. 1960
    - **Norman Gunn PADGETT** b. 1903 Ballarat, Vic, d. 1952 Princhester, Qld
    - **Jean Gunn PADGETT** b. 1913 Vic, d. 2002
- **Norman GUNN** b. 11 May 1872 Burrumbeet, Vic, d. 1944 Williamstown, Vic
- **Hugh GUNN** b. 28 Oct 1875 Burrumbeet, Vic, d. 24 Jun 1879 Burrumbeet, Vic
- **Arthur Gilbert GUNN** b. 19 May 1878 Burrumbeet, Vic, d. 18 Jun 1933 Ivanhoe, Vic
  - +**Louisa Maud Miriam RETALLICK** b. 1875 Naseby, Otago, m. 1901 Ballarat, Vic, d. 1959 Elsternwick, Vic
    - **Malcolm Donald GUNN** b. 1903 Ballarat, Vic, d. 1961 Heidelberg, Vic
    - **Kenneth Douglas GUNN** b. 1905 Kalgoorlie, WA, d. 1951 Longreach, Qld
    - **Angus Norman GUNN** b. 1912 Kalgoorlie, WA, d. 1994 Caringbah, NSW
    - **Colin GUNN** b. 1915 Ballarat, Vic, d. 1916 Ballarat, Vic
- **Catherine Alexandrina GUNN** b. 13 Sep 1880 Burrumbeet, Vic, d. 13 Aug 1960 Ormond, Vic

[245] See next biography.
[246] http://newspapers.nla.gov.au/ndp/del/article/16209653?searchTerm=Gunn for her funeral notice.
[247] Her brother was W.T. Chenhall M.D., M.B. B.S. F.R.C.S. who was a notable Sydney surgeon until his death in 1923. See http://newspapers.nla.gov.au/ndp/del/article/16112528?searchTerm=Gunn

Hon. John Alexander Gunn, New South Wales, Australia, 1860-1910 (great, great grandson)

*Being the eldest son of the preceding **Donald Gunn of Brawlbin and Ballarat**, Victoria, Australia 1832-1901 whose mother was **Barbara Gunn 1810-1844** whose father was **Donald Braehour and Brawlbin Gunn** 1765-1861 being a son of **John Braehour Gunn**. Therefore, Donald is a great, great grandson of John Braehour Gunn.*

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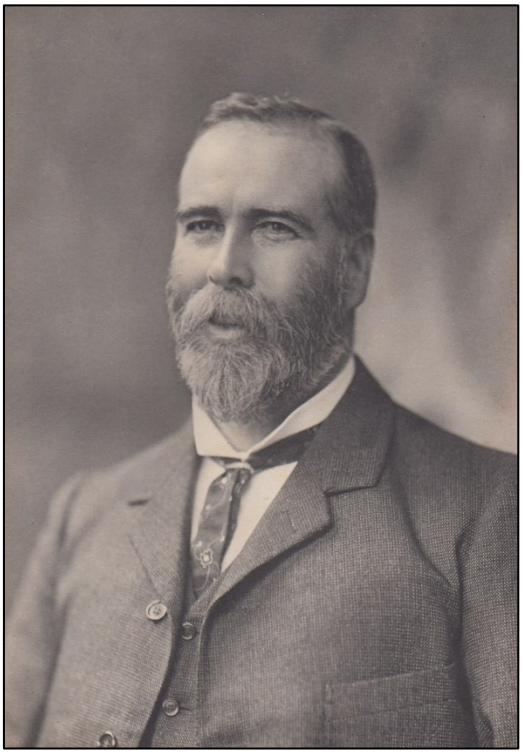

J. A. Gunn 1906.

John Alexander Gunn was born at Buninyong, near Ballarat in the state of Victoria, Australia on 11 February 1860. His father was **Donald** (1832-1901) who had emigrated to Australia (probably in December 1854) and who had then settled near Ballarat which was then in the throes of a gold rush. **Donald** was a Councillor of the Shire of Ballarat for two periods early in J.A.'s life – 30 August 1865 until 10 June 1867 and 15 August 1870 until 12 October 1874. For the period 11 November 1872 until 12 October 1874, he was President of the Shire. **Donald** was also Foundation Secretary of the first Highland Society in Victoria – namely The Buninyong Highland Society which was established in 1858. (The first Melbourne society was established in 1861 and the Victorian society was established in 1864.) Donald's wife was Jane Surman of Oxford who was born on 18 January 1836. **Donald's** mother was **Barbara** (1810-1844) who was the second child of **Donald the Sennachie** (1770-1861) the ongoing Clan Gunn Chief line.

Little is known of the early years of J.A.'s life bar that his parents' home "Burrumbeet" was becoming more crowded—by the time he left it in 1878 to be a jackaroo at South Yalgogrin station near Ardlethan, New South Wales; he had six brothers and two sisters. One more sister, Catherine, was born in 1880 which was two years after J.A. had left home to drive cattle to Yalgogrin station.

In 1886 J.A. was promoted to the position of manager of the station, before this he had been the overseer. The station was then owned by the major Australian pastoral firm of Goldsborough, Mort and Company. Also, in this year, on 8 June[248] he married Jessie Maria Turner at Nithsdale, North Brighton in Melbourne being her parents' home. Jessie was born at Beechworth in Victoria which was then a small gold-mining, rural service town near the Victorian Alps. Her father, William, was born at Kirkconnell, Scotland and her mother Maria Reinhardt was born at Hessen Cassell in Germany. They were always much in love and Jessie had a major role in their marriage—she kept all of J.A.'s laboratory records and fought on his behalf for many years to try and gain recognition for J.A.'s scientific and public works after his comparatively early death.

Nithsdale, 316 St. Kilda Street, North Brighton, Victoria, Australia, 2007. Nithsdale, in the 1880s, was occupied and most probably owned by Jessie Marie Turner's father, William Turner.

Sometime between 1878 and 1888 family stories suggest JA wrote a novel called *The Conargo Blacks*. The Conargo region is near Wagga Wagga. His descendants do not have a copy, nor does any Australian library.

With the acceptance of the managerial position J.A.'s scientific instincts came to prominence. In 1888 J.A. rode in a Yalgogrin paddock with Marcus Daniel, one of his younger brothers. They saw sheep dead in what was a fine season. Initially they thought it was due to poison but it was due to anthrax. This was not unlikely as in 1885-1886 the area immediately around Yalgogrin, which is the Merool district of the Northern Riverina, was devastated by the disease. One could lose half of one's sheep a year and all sheep regions of Australia were being attacked. This was despite Pasteur discovering a vaccine in France in 1881.

Pasteur's vaccine, though, was inappropriate for Australian conditions—he demanded £38,000 for its use and it needed to be kept cool and injected twice, fourteen days apart. Australia had a small population so could not afford that amount of money. The summers were hot so the vaccine was not reliable and it was very difficult and quite expensive to round up stock twice for injections.

[248] *The Argus* 12 June 1886, page 1. They were married by the Rev Hay, at Nithsdale.

By the 1890s anthrax was rampant throughout the Australian colonies and only rarely would natural increases make up for losses caused by the disease. As a consequence, the quality of most flocks was declining. Anthrax is a particularly nasty disease in that the better the season the worse is the anthrax. J.A. had many reasons to experiment. In 1892 Yalgogrin consisted of 129,000 acres and ran 26,600 sheep, 34 horse and 41 cattle – Goldsborough, Mort and Co. also owned many other properties.

Leslie W. Devlin, who lived at Junee, had tested Pasteur's vaccine in earlier years and he and J.A. were to become close friends. At Yalgogrin J.A. established a laboratory in which he attempted to conquer anthrax[249] - it included a huge boiling down vat and a great brick chimney. Initially he used Devlin's notes which included some from Pasteur. (There is an apocryphal family story that J.A. locked himself in a room for four months and allowed no-one in and did not exit whilst he learnt adequate French to read Pasteur's notes; this I do not believe as his wife was fluent in French and helped her husband with the experiments.[250]) J.A. boiled down old sheep until he gained a clear solution then, using a converted chicken brooder which is now held at the Glenfield Veterinary Research Station, he introduced the anthrax culture. By the 1893-1894 summer J.A. had created his own vaccine but it was still double dose like Pasteur's – it was used, though, to inoculate over half a million sheep in that season.

The serum did not keep well. Initially he tried to get Devlin to help him increase the longevity of the serum but he was not successful. John McGarvie Smith was then approached and within days the keeping quality of the serum was markedly improved. McGarvie Smith had previously worked on snake venene and there is a story that he used to get snake collectors to release all their snakes into one room and they would then have to accept McGarvie Smith's price or attempt to recapture all their stock.[251] He had also been a metallurgist. McGarvie Smith was a questionable character.[252] J.A. and McGarvie Smith succeeded in developing a single dose serum. This, basically, saved the Australian livestock industry.

McGarvie Smith expected and gained a partnership with J.A. for the production of the serum even though he had been involved with the research for a short time whereas J.A. had worked on it for years. J.A. was not happy about this – he talked it over with family and friends for some days but he had no alternative as McGarvie Smith knew the formula.[253] The partnership was to greatly prosper financially but in human terms it was a disaster that got worse. Under the terms of the partnership each was to maintain a laboratory – McGarvie Smith was to vaccinate north of Sydney and J.A. was to vaccinate south of Sydney and in Victoria. The partnership was entered into in April 1895.

J.A. was to write of the immediate seasons that followed that

... last season we inoculated over a million sheep with one inoculation, and though this was the first season of its use ... less than 10 per cent had to receive the second inoculation to render them absolutely immune; and this season, as we are more and more perfecting the material, out of another million not 2 per cent required a second vaccination... (The) President of the New South Wales Board of Health stated that vaccine under the most favourable circumstances killed 5 per cent of the sheep treated; he undoubtedly referred to the published results of Pasteur's process as under no circumstances whatever will McGarvie Smith and Gunn's vaccine kill

[249] J. A. Gunn applied for permission to keep microbes and inoculate animals in December 1893 and nothing equivalent can be found for McGarvie Smith. *The Sydney Morning Herald* 8 December 1893, page 7.
[250] http://newspapers.nla.gov.au/ndp/del/article/15646852?searchTerm=Gunn
[251] Quoted in R. Webster, *Bygoo and Beyond*, p.88.
[252] See chapter 6 of Peter Symes *Opportunity Makes the Man: The Labours of John Alexander Gunn*.
[253] Quoted in R. Webster, *Bygoo and Beyond*, p.87.

a sheep... (and we) have offered to give £1000 to the charities of Sydney if he can produce proof of any deaths having been caused by it out of the 3,750,000 sheep treated by us.[254]

The challenge was never taken up: Pasteur's vaccine was now irrelevant as a cheap and foolproof method was now available.

J.A. continued to work for Goldsborough, Mort and Co. as well as working on the vaccine. In 1895 he was made a superintendent for all stations owned by the company in Southern New South Wales. This was as well as managing Yalgogrin. He was to continue being a manager and a superintendent until he resigned from the company in 1905. J.A. also had become a Justice of the Peace in 1896.

In 1897 J.A. moved from Yalgogrin to Borambola station which abuts the Murrumbidgee River, eighteen miles from Wagga Wagga. Sidney and Beatrice Webb visited him there. They wrote of their 1898 visit that J.A. and his

...family were already at lunch when we arrived about 12.30, the party consisting of the husband and wife, an unmarried sister, the book-keeper and a young jackaroo or "colonial experience" young man, together with various youngsters of all sizes and both sexes; later on a travelling school inspector and his friend drove up and joined the party in the usual free and easy Australian fashion. The meal was a scrimmagy mixture of mutton, tea, jam and buns, wire covers protecting some of the eatables from the depredations of the flies that swarmed through the room – (the Australians have not yet tumbled to wire netting over doorways and windows characteristic of the fly devastated districts of America). Our host proved to be an unusually interesting man. Australian born, of Scotch extraction, a successful manager of stations in different districts in New South Wales, he has devoted his leisure to a scientific investigation of Anthrax and had invented and patented a vaccine named after him – the Gunn vaccine. Last year he had vaccinated over one million sheep, receiving from 1½ d. to 2d. for each animal and supplying his own operators as well as his own vaccine. He was delighted to show us over his laboratory and glad enough to find someone interested in his hobby. He was a thorough-going individualist, objecting altogether to Government regulation and the necessity of taking out a license for his experimental work – a fine fellow for all that – hard working and upright, with that interesting combination of speculative intelligence and a keen commercial instinct which is so characteristic of the best type of Scotchman. For the rest he was a materialist in metaphysic, a reactionary in politics, and an autocrat in the home; keeping his woman kind in due subordination to his own requirements, his sister, a good-natured raw ugly Scotch girl, doing the housekeeping and looking after the children, and his wife, a delicate little bright minded Melbourne lady, devoting her whole time to keeping his laboratory in perfect order and watching, hour by hour, his "incubating" processes. As might have been expected, the elderly book-keeper was Scotch and the jackaroo was also Scotch and doubtless if we had enquired we would have discovered that the overseer was Scotch: this Station was in fact a little bit of Scotland transplanted; only religion had disappeared and free and easy colonial materialism had taken its place.[255]

And on their return journey the Webbs '*... again lunched with our friend Mr. Gunn. In the evening we dined with him and Mr. Mouritz at the little inn at Wagga. Our pleasant smoke with them in the evening on the balcony overlooking the main street of Wagga Wagga completed our impression that the "managers" formed one of the most hopeful sections of these Australian colonies.*[256]'

[254] *The Australasian Pastoralists' Review* 15 January 1899.
[255] ed. A.G.Austin, *The Webbs' Australian Diary 1898*, pp.58-60. The two extracts are used with the kind permission of the copyright holders The London School of Economics and Political Science and the publishers Pitman Publishing Pty. Ltd..
[256] Ibid., p. 61.

It is an interesting picture of J.A. and his family but not, perhaps, entirely accurate. A.A. Phillips, a distinguished Australian critic, was later to write that Beatrice Webb's "portraits are a little unbalanced by her fondness for finding faults... Nevertheless she has a waspish acumen, and she almost always adds a vividness to our image of these personalities."[257]

At Borambola J.A. was nearly burnt to death in a bushfire. The summer of 1901/1902 was particularly dry and the bushfires were immense. Of the party of three in which he was working to save Borambola pastures one was burnt to death, one survived unharmed and J.A. was burnt about the hands[258]. In January 1903 Boer farmer delegates visited the property; 'which has several miles of frontage to the Murumbidgee and to Tarcutta Creek'.[259] Bushfires also reappeared in the summer of 1903-1904 and in these only the Borambola homestead was left untouched. The local newspaper was stunned and believed that Borambola was the best protected property in the district.

Increasingly J.A. was leaving the Wagga Wagga area and generally in connection with his own business: he often visited Sydney where he stayed at the Hotel Metropole, and he regularly visited Melbourne (even being knocked unconscious by a tram when he was there in 1903.) J.A. was finding it increasingly difficult to fulfil all the demands on his time. He decided to employ his brother Marcus Daniel to act as a temporary manager on Borambola from April 1, 1902. Initially J.A. paid the salary from his own wage but the position was ratified with Goldsborough, Mort and Co. and Marcus was made a permanent employee. J.A.'s salary was cut from £350 to £150 to match the salary paid to the new employee.

By mid-1905 J.A. had bought his own property which he called Braehour[260] (it was previously called Gumly Gumly) and which adjoined the Borambola station. In August of this year he was to refer to himself as a "grazier residing at Braehour.., a Bacteriologist and Station Inspector."[261] Increasingly he was leading the life of a wealthy pastoralist – his sons finished their schooling boarding at the leading rural Presbyterian school of Victoria namely Geelong College; he had become a member of various rural pressure groups;[262] he had acquired property ranging from at least four houses in Sydney to land outside Geelong and, in particular, in 1908 he was appointed Chairman of the Council of Advice on Rabbit Extermination[263]. This occurred to a large extent because of his work at Yalgogrin on a chicken cholera virus[264] with which he inoculated rabbits. This disease became known as the "Yalgogrin disease" and was a forerunner of the myxomatosis control of rabbits—the disease also spread to France where it was known as "the Australian disease."

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[257] A.A. Phillips, *Responses: Selected Writings*, "A Lady among the Yahoos," p.138 used with permission of the author.

[258] *The Sydney Morning Herald* 30 December 1901, page 8) reports Mr J.A. Gunn, manager of Borambola, with his brother Norman Gunn, and three station hands, were watching the river for the anticipated crossing of the flames. About 4 p.m. the grass took fire by a point close to them. An attempt was immediately to suppress the outbreak, and for a time it appeared as if their efforts would be successful. The wind suddenly changed, and the men were trapped. Mr. Gunn shouted to the others to follow him and dashed through the flames. It was a frightful experience and those few awful moments are not likely to be forgotten by the unfortunate men… All with the exception of a young man named Frank Curley reached the break, but it appears Curley tried to avoid the flames by making a detour, and in doing so met a horrible death. His charred body was discovered some time later…Mr J.A. Gunn, the manager, also had his hands rather severely burnt…A futile effort was made to save their horses which had been tied up, but three were roasted to death and the other three had eventually to be destroyed…'.

[259] http://newspapers.nla.gov.au/ndp/del/article/14521956?searchTerm=Gunn being for 'The Sydney Morning Herald' 15 January 1903, page 6. The confluence with the Murumbidgee is about six kilometres south of Oura in the Riverina area of NSW.

[260] http://www.beleura.org.au/History.htm for information about a later owner of Braehour and http://adbonline.anu.edu.au/biogs/A120184b.htm

[261] Letter, August 1905, Deposit 55, A.N.U. archives.

[262] Before 1897 J.A. was Chairman of the Narrandera Pastures Protection Board. By his death he had been Chairman of the Wagga Wagga P.P.B., Chairman of the P.P.B. Council of Advice in Sydney, a member of the Kyeamba Shire Council, Vice President of the Murrumbidgee Pastoral and Agricultural Association and a member of the Council of the Stockowners' Association of N.S.W.. By 1902 he was a member of the Taxpayers' Union http://newspapers.nla.gov.au/ndp/del/article/14453128?searchTerm=Gunn . In 1905 he was a member of the Murrumbidgee Fish and Game Protection and Anglers' Society http://newspapers.nla.gov.au/ndp/del/article/14713190?searchTerm=Gunn

[263] http://newspapers.nla.gov.au/ndp/del/article/14784643?searchTerm=Gunn and http://newspapers.nla.gov.au/ndp/del/article/14845100?searchTerm=Gunn

[264] See *The Sydney Morning Herald*, page 6 8 April 1908.

Relationships with McGarvie Smith had not improved. From late 1905 on letters to McGarvie Smith were going via J.A.'s solicitor – on November 12, 1906 J.A. wrote about McGarvie Smith that "the man is a devil neither more nor less and a mad one at that but with the cunning of the devil himself."[265] In 1907 J.A. was writing to the Tax Commissioners explaining why he sent in an incomplete return - his partner was not providing him with full financial information. (Interestingly, when the information did come, it seems that J.A.'s income for the 1907 financial year was £3100—an average income at this time could not have been much over £100.) The partnership was brought to arbitration in July 1907 and it still required an arbitrator's services when J.A. died. When the figures were produced for the arbitrator it was shown that J.A. had vaccinated nearly 2,000,000 more sheep than McGarvie Smith at a cost of more than £50 per 100,000 sheep less than McGarvie Smith. Over 13,000,000 sheep had been vaccinated at this time as had sundry other stock.

In many respects the public career of J.A. culminated in his appointment to the Upper House of the New South Wales parliament on 10 July, 1908. As a Member of the Legislative Council J.A. was in a position to exert even more influence[266] over rural life than he had already, especially as then an M.L.C. although not paid was appointed for life. J.A. was, though, a Liberal Party[267] nominee. He tried to help the rural community by taking a major part on a Closer Settlement Bill in 1909, he was on a select committee for a new Sydney abbatoir and he tried to improve rolling stock to rural areas. General ill-health was, though, restricting him. He was a regular attender for the 1908 and 1909 sittings but J.A. attended only four times in 1910 before being given leave of absence in August 1910. J.A. died in Sydney on the 21st September 1910[268] and was buried in the Presbyterian section of the Rookwood cemetery. His wife (Jessie) and three children (Gladys, Alexander and Angus) succeeded him. A fourth child (Jessie) was buried at Yalgogrin in 1891.

The disagreements with McGarvie Smith[269], though, were to continue[270]. Increasingly McGarvie Smith was to claim most responsibility for the vaccine—he even donated £10,000 to the government for the creation of a McGarvie Smith Institute which was to control the manufacture and use of the vaccine. This Institute was opened in 1918. Jessie[271], on behalf of J.A.'s executors, had already attempted to donate the formula[272] to the State Government however this offer was only accepted after McGarvie Smith's. When the Glenfield Veterinary Research Station was opened in 1923 one wing was to become the Gunn wing[273] to commemorate Jessie's 1918 gift. (The only condition on the gift was that J.A.'s name be associated with it.) The McGarvie Smith Institute still exists and there was a wooden plaque over one door at Glenfield commemorating J.A.. The State Cabinet was involved in the McGarvie Smith – Gunn dispute in 1918—one newspaper was even headed "Anthrax vaccines – manacling the Government."[274] The dispute with McGarvie Smith was never satisfactorily resolved—J.A. believed that "McGarvie Smith is simply green with jealousy and hatred."[275] If so, he hated J.A. for a long time.

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[265] Letter to lawyer, 12 November 1906, Deposit 55, A.N.U. archives.
[266] http://newspapers.nla.gov.au/ndp/del/article/15070625?searchTerm=Gunn for a report on one of his activities.
[267] He was, though, like most of his class and time, an Anglophile. See 'The Mercury' 2 September 1908
[268] http://newspapers.nla.gov.au/ndp/del/article/15165918?searchTerm=Gunn for the burial notice and chief mourners.
[269] *The Sydney Morning Herald* of 3 July 1896 gives the background to McGarvie Smith's assorted experiments (photography, electricity, assaying, originally a chronometer maker, snake poison…)
[270] 'Jim Cunningham and other neighbours, who had no doubts at all as to who was mainly responsible for the final discovery, bitterly resented the way in which Gunn's share in it was overlooked.' P. 89, Rob Webster, *Bygoo and Beyond*. And
http://newspapers.nla.gov.au/ndp/del/article/15652008?searchTerm=Gunn . And
http://newspapers.nla.gov.au/ndp/del/article/15648133?searchTerm=Gunn. And
http://newspapers.nla.gov.au/ndp/del/article/16136760?searchTerm=Gunn
[271] Jessie continued to run Braehour for some years; for example it was reported in *The Argus* 27 December 1916 that one of the haystacks was hit by lightning and destroyed. It was worth £100. http://newspapers.nla.gov.au/ndp/del/article/1623825?searchTerm=Gunn
[272] http://newspapers.nla.gov.au/ndp/del/article/15806715?searchTerm=Gunn and
http://newspapers.nla.gov.au/ndp/del/article/1754029?searchTerm=Gunn
[273] *The Sydney Morning Herald* 3 November 1923 page 15,
[274] *Daily Telegraph* 25 October 1918.
[275] Letter to lawyer, July 1908, Deposit 55, A.N.U. archives.

J.A. was a man of strong character and major achievements: he was dedicated to science, pastoral work and his family. He was exceptionally hard-working but very popular. He was also a man who achieved much for the Australian pastoral industry—he invented the first mechanical poison-bait layer for rabbit control which was manufactured in Sydney and widely copied; he attempted viral control of rabbits and he stopped anthrax from ruining the Australian livestock industry. He then went on to serve rural Australia from the Parliament of New South Wales. John Alexander Gunn was one of many Australians who made large contributions to a 'young' country with unfortunately little lasting recognition.[276]

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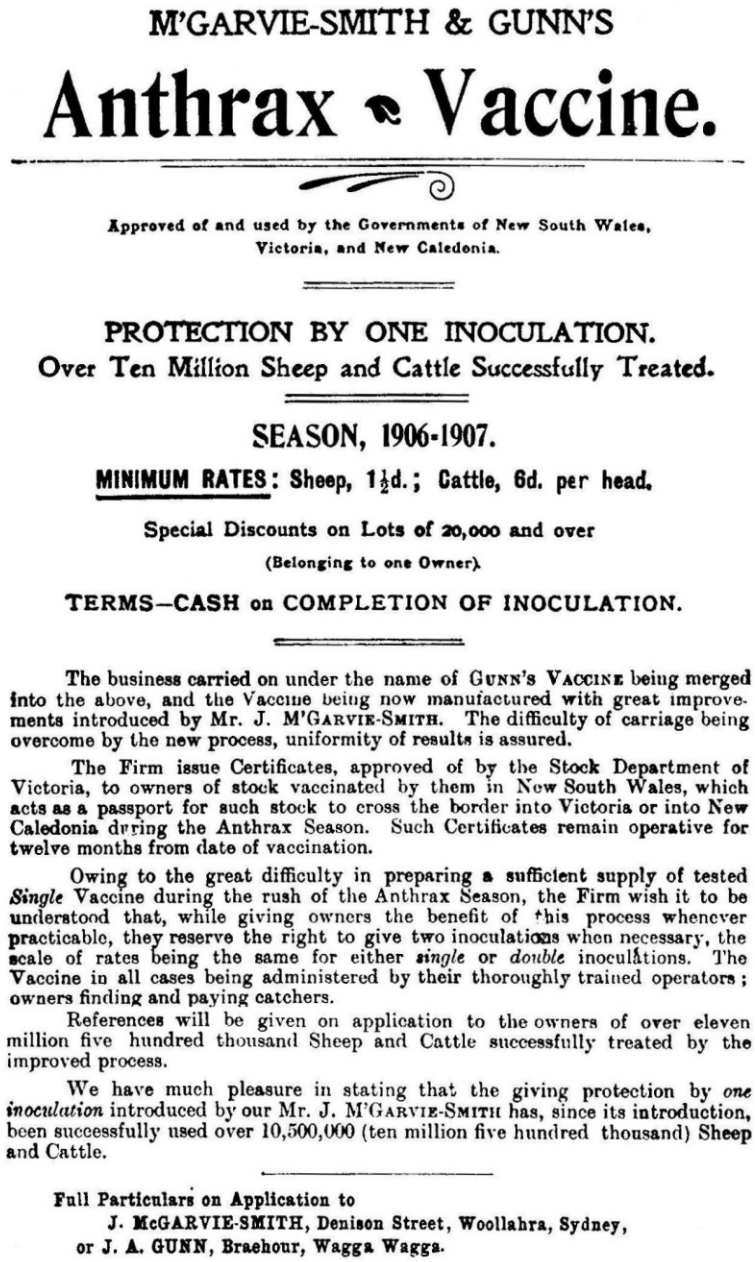


M'GARVIE-SMITH & GUNN'S

Anthrax Vaccine.

Approved of and used by the Governments of New South Wales, Victoria, and New Caledonia.

PROTECTION BY ONE INOCULATION.
Over Ten Million Sheep and Cattle Successfully Treated.

SEASON, 1906-1907.

MINIMUM RATES: Sheep, 1½d.; Cattle, 6d. per head.

Special Discounts on Lots of 20,000 and over
(Belonging to one Owner).

TERMS—CASH on COMPLETION OF INOCULATION.

The business carried on under the name of GUNN'S VACCINE being merged into the above, and the Vaccine being now manufactured with great improvements introduced by Mr. J. M'GARVIE-SMITH. The difficulty of carriage being overcome by the new process, uniformity of results is assured.

The Firm issue Certificates, approved of by the Stock Department of Victoria, to owners of stock vaccinated by them in New South Wales, which acts as a passport for such stock to cross the border into Victoria or into New Caledonia during the Anthrax Season. Such Certificates remain operative for twelve months from date of vaccination.

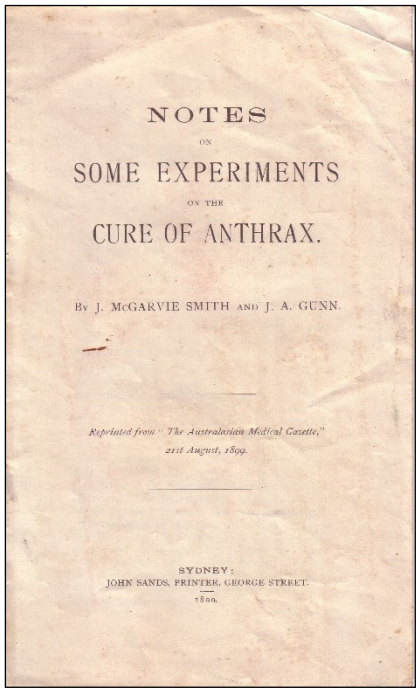
Owing to the great difficulty in preparing a sufficient supply of tested *Single* Vaccine during the rush of the Anthrax Season, the Firm wish it to be understood that, while giving owners the benefit of this process whenever practicable, they reserve the right to give two inoculations when necessary, the scale of rates being the same for either *single* or *double* inoculations. The Vaccine in all cases being administered by their thoroughly trained operators; owners finding and paying catchers.

References will be given on application to the owners of over eleven million five hundred thousand Sheep and Cattle successfully treated by the improved process.

We have much pleasure in stating that the giving protection by *one inoculation* introduced by our Mr. J. M'GARVIE-SMITH has, since its introduction, been successfully used over 10,500,000 (ten million five hundred thousand) Sheep and Cattle.

Full Particulars on Application to
J. McGARVIE-SMITH, Denison Street, Woollahra, Sydney,
or J. A. GUNN, Braehour, Wagga Wagga.

[276] http://newspapers.nla.gov.au/ndp/del/article/15178029?searchTerm=Gunn or http://newspapers.nla.gov.au/ndp/del/article/10477323?searchTerm=Gunn for a summary of his will. For further information see the major biography of John Alexander Gunn published in 2024 – *Opportunity Makes the Man; The Labours of John Alexander Gunn,* by Peter Symes.

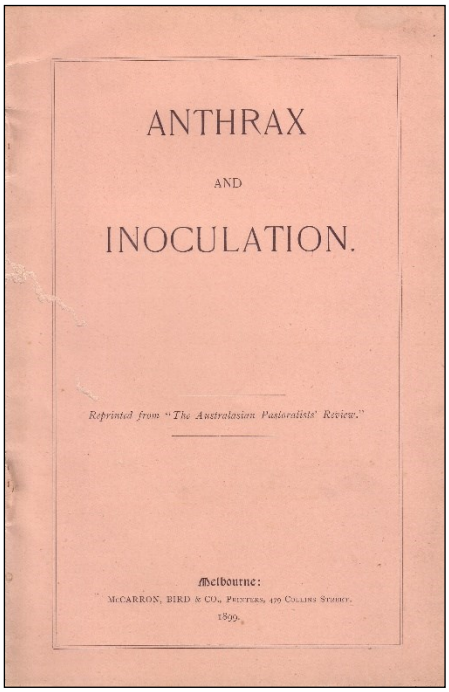


NOTES
ON
SOME EXPERIMENTS
ON THE
CURE OF ANTHRAX.

By J. McGARVIE SMITH and J. A. GUNN.

Reprinted from "The Australasian Medical Gazette," 21st August, 1899.

SYDNEY:
JOHN SANDS, PRINTER, GEORGE STREET.
1899.



ANTHRAX
AND
INOCULATION.

Reprinted from "The Australasian Pastoralists' Review."

Melbourne:
McCARRON, BIRD & CO., PRINTERS, 479 COLLINS STREET.
1899.

Mr Gunn always strongly opposed the use of poisons for dealing with the rabbits. ‘’If this practice is persisted in,’’ he says, ‘’the eventual effect will be the entire destruction of our useful birds, and after that we shall have plagues of insects which will be far more ruinous to rural interests than even the rabbit’’

The Sydney Morning Herald, 26 November 1913

The original J.A. Gunn microscope is in the family’s ownership, 2007. A Carl Zeiss Jena 12213 model.

J. A. Gunn

Appendices

1. James Miller 1826-1918. Reminiscences, mainly Melbourne, Victoria, Australia.

Catherine Gunn[277] was born on 13 May 1830 in Reay Parish, Caithness.[278] She was christened on 18 May 1830 in Halkirk Parish, Caithness.[279] She married James Miller, son of John Miller and Elizabeth Dunnet, on 13 March 1857 in residence of John W. Surman, Buninyong, Vic.[280] She died in 1912 in Vic.[281] She appeared on the 1841 Census of Brawlbin, Reay Parish, Caithness, in the household of her parents Alexander Gunn of Bualchork and Brawlbin and ***Barbara Gunn of Braehour****. She appeared on the 1851 Census of Brawlbin, Reay Parish, Caithness, in the household of* ***Donald Gunn in Brawlbin and Ballarat****.[282] James Miller sent home for his childhood sweetheart Catherine Gunn in 1854. Catherine and* ***Donald*** *arrived in Melbourne, Victoria aboard the Herald of the Morning in Dec 1854. Catherine apparently travelled under her mother's name Barbara Gunn. She lived in 1857 in Geelong, Vic.[283]*

James MILLER[284] was born in 1826 in Wick Parish, Caithness; born in 1826 at Wick, Caithness, in the north of Scotland.[285] He died in 1918 in Vic at the age of 92, after 54 years with the company. He learned to be a

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[277] *LDS Church*, Christenings of children of Barbara Gunn, father Alexander Gunn. Catherine, 18 May 1830, Halkirk; Donald, 9 Jun 1832, Reay; Janet, 19 Aug 1834, Reay; John, 29 Feb 1836, Reay.

[278] UK Census 06 June 1841: District of Brawlbin lying in the south part of the Parish of Reay. Each person who abode in each house on night of 6 June 1841: Alexander Gunn 50 farmer; Barbara Gunn 30; Kathrine Gunn 11; Donald Gunn 9; John Gunn 5; Janet Gunn 7; William Gunn 2; all born in Caithness. Note: Census instructions for recording age were that if under 15, actual age; if over 15, record to the nearest 5 years below actual ie Alexander Gunn was between 50 and 55 and Barbara between 30 and 35 on 6 June 1841. Birth years are thus Alexander 1786-1791 and Barbara 1806-1811.; Census 30 March 1851: County of Caithness, Parish of Reay. Residents at Brawlbinn. Donald Gunn head, unmarried 19, farmer, 16 acres, born Halkirk; Katherine Gunn sister, unmarried 20, general service, born Reay; Janet Gunn sister, unmarried 17, scholar, born Reay; John Gunn brother, unmarried 15, scholar born Reay; William Gunn brother, unmarried 12, scholar born Reay.; *Bible of Alexander Gunn*: my daughter Kitty born May 13 1830.

[279] *LDS Church*, Christenings of children of Barbara Gunn, father Alexander Gunn
Catherine, 18 May 1830, Halkirk; Donald, 9 Jun 1832, Reay; Janet, 19 Aug 1834, Reay; John, 29 Feb 1836, Reay.

[280] Certificate of Marriage, 1857 130 Marriages solemnized in the District of Buninyong: James Miller, Ship Chandler, age 28, born Wick Scotland, Bachelor resident Geelong, father John Miller, Builder, mother Elizabeth Dunnet, married Catherine Gunn, Servant, age 26, born Reay Scotland, Spinster resident Geelong, father Alexander Gunn, Farmer, Mother Barbara Gunn, according to the Rites of the Presbyterian Church.

[281] Bruce A Smith, *The James Miller Story* (Prahran, Victoria: D.W.Paterson Co, 1962). The James Miller Story, published for the centenary of James Miller and Co, 1962: James Miller. Born in 1826 at Wick, Caithness, in the north of Scotland, he died in 1918 at the age of 92, after 54 years with the company. He arrived in Australia in 1850, tried his luck in the goldfields, and worked as a ship chandler before he established his rope business. In 1854, he sent home for his childhood sweetheart, Catherine Gunn, whom he married in Geelong. One of their sons, J D Miller, became secretary and a director of the company in 1918. James Miller's youngest daughter, Katherine, married W P Vine, and their son, F S Vine, was managing director until 1960. Today his son, James Miller Vine, a great grandson of James Miller, is with the company. James died at 92 in 1918, six years after Catherine's death.

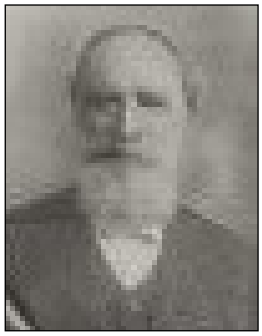
[282] Census 30 March 1851: County of Caithness, Parish of Reay. Residents at Brawlbinn. Donald Gunn head, unmarried 19, farmer, 16 acres, born Halkirk; Katherine Gunn sister, unmarried 20, general service, born Reay; Janet Gunn sister, unmarried 17, scholar, born Reay; John Gunn brother, unmarried 15, scholar born Reay; William Gunn brother, unmarried 12, scholar born Reay.

[283] Register of BDMs - Victoria, 1857 879.

[284] Certificate of Marriage, 1857 879 marriages solemnized in the District of Buninyong; Certificate of Marriage, 1857 879 marriages solemnized in the District of Buninyong.

[285] Bruce A Smith, *James Miller Story*, James Miller, the son of a stonemason and builder, came to Australia in 1850 from Wick, a small seaport of Caithness in the north-east of Scotland. There he had learnt the age-old craft of sail making.
With only meagre savings behind him he worked for a while as a sailmaker in Van Diemen's Land, travelling on the ships trading between Van Diemen's Land and Norfolk Island. On one of these trips the cargo included a number of female convicts. The manner in which they were 'loaded' into the vessel, and the conditions under which they were carried, so disgusted the sailmaker that he left the ship in Sydney.
In the meantime the rush to the Victorian goldfields had set in. The discovery of the fabulously rich Ballarat and Bendigo fields, the first in Australia, resulted in fortunes for many diggers. James Miller decided to try his luck and, although he made no fortune, he was sufficiently successful to be able to establish his own small business as a ship chandler in Geelong.
In 1854 he sent home for his childhood sweetheart, Catherine Gunn, of Brawlbin, Caithness, whom he married in 1857 in Geelong. They had six children, some of whom continued in the rope making business started by James.
James started his rope works at Emerald Hill, now South Melbourne, in 1862. A century later it was Australia's largest manufacturer of rope, cordage and associated products. Alexander Gray, another Scot, helped by providing capital for modern machinery. Then James brought to Australia his brothers-in-law: Peter Hogg, an experienced ropemaker, and George Murray, a carpenter.
In 1864, George Kinnear joined the staff to install and maintain machinery purchased from America. He was an engineer, but left the company in 1869 to establish his own successful enterprise.

ropemaker and sailmaker in Wick in 1845.[286] He emigrated on 28 June 1850 from London in the sailing ship Australasia. He arrived in Hobart, Tasmania, in October 1850. He was employed as a sailmaker for three voyages in the Lady Franklin between Hobart and Norfolk Island in 1851. He settled in Melbourne one week before gold was discovered at Clunes in Jun 1851. He walked all the way from Melbourne to Ballarat in 1851, and left the diggings in 1852. He started a coal yard and ship chandler business in 1852 in Geelong, Vic. He sent for his childhood sweetheart, Catherine Gunn, of Brawlbin in 1854. He lived on 13 March 1857 in Geelong, Vic.[287] He was a ship chandler on 13 March 1857. He was the founder of Millers Ropes at Emerald Hill, now South Yarra, in partnership with Alexander Gray in 1862 in Vic. He sold the South Melbourne factory and bought river frontage at Yarraville in 1888. He dissolved the partnership and formed a limited company with son James as chairman and Gray as director on 7 September 1898. He retired as Chairman and Managing Director of Millers Ropes in 1916 in Melbourne, Victoria.



James Miller

With a nucleus of sound men, James was the first in Australia to introduce machinery for the preparing and spinning of vegetable fibres and the walk-laying of rope. The term 'ropewalk,' now a very old one, came from the spinner or ropemaker walking back and forth. The spinner wound a bunch of combed fibres around his waist, attached a few of the fibres to a hook and walked backwards while the driving wheel was turned by a fellow worker. As the hook revolved, the spinner fed out the fibre from the bundles around his waist. By the time he reached the end of the ropewalk a long piece of yarn had been spun. He repeated this operation until there were several yarns to twist together to form the 'strand.' Finally, three or more strands were twisted together thus 'laying' the rope. The James Miller enterprise was known originally not as a ropeworks but as a 'ropewalk.'

One day in 1888, James walked into the office and told the staff that he had sold the factory's South Melbourne site for £100,000. It was the height of the land boom. A deposit of £ 20,000 was paid and the purchaser promptly resold at £125,000. And then the boom burst. Miller had only his deposit. Moreover he had contracted to build new works on a river frontage at Yarraville.

In the tragic years that followed, bank after bank closed its doors - including Miller's own bank. Left with the now unsaleable South Melbourne property on his hands, James was committed to substantial expenditure in the middle of the worst depression the colony had known. It must have been heartbreaking. Somehow the firm survived, the banks restructured and opened again, and by the time the depression was over, James' operations had all been transferred to Yarraville.

Not only were all debts paid, but James and his partner, Alexander Gray, managed to help friends who also faced ruin.

As a result of the land boom and the large number of bankruptcies that followed the crash of the 1890's, James and Gray, both now in their 70's, dissolved the partnership and formed a limited company on 7 Sep 1898, with James as Chairman and Gray one of the other two directors.

James Miller was a compassionate man. At the end of the first world war, and shortly before his death, the company built a canteen at the Yarraville factory. This was one of the very first to be provided by a company in Melbourne - at a time when concessions and benefits extended by employers to employees were a rarity. Full meals were not supplied, but light refreshments could be purchased. At James' direction, soup was supplied free to juveniles and female workers. It was his opinion that many arrived for work having had little or no breakfast and he considered they needed more than just the cold lunch they brought with them. This consideration toward employees and their personal problems is one reason that many grandchildren of original employees are on the payroll of the company today.

James died at 92 in 1918, six years after Catherine's death, after 54 years with the company he founded.

[286] *Unknown newspaper*, Mr James Miller's reminiscences. See Paart 7 for the complete article.

[287] Certificate of Marriage, 1857 879 marriages solemnized in the District of Buninyong.

Reminiscences

Being an extract from a newspaper (unknown). It is mainly about James Miller[288] *who was the husband of Catherine Gunn (1830 - 1912) who was* ***Donald Gunn's*** *elder sister.* ***For him, see pages XXX*** *The detail here is largely repeated in* 'The James Miller Story' (Prahran, Victoria: D.W. Paterson Co, 1962).

MELBOURNE BEFORE 1852

Of men who have seen Melbourne grow up to what it is, whose memories go back to Ballarat before the Eureka Stockade, there are only two or three – perhaps not that number – still engaged in business in the city. Mr James Miller, head of the well-known rope and mat manufacturing firm, in Little Collins Street is one of them. The period covered by his personal observation is of special interest to Australians, because it bridges the whole gulf between the Melbourne of blacks and bullock wagons and riverside humpies and the Melbourne of to-day. Before he came to Australia he can remember, as a child in Scotland, seeing school children go by with the word "Reform" printed on the sashes they were carrying. That was part of the First Reform Bill agitation of 81 years ago! He was himself a sympathizer in the Chartist riots, ten years later. As a young man in the twenties, Mr Miller has stood on the deck of the old Lady Franklin as she lay off Norfolk Island, and seen the convicts pulling out to the ship, with the heavily armed warders sitting at the stern. Strange weird-looking objects these convicts must have been, with their solitary garment a blanket, through which holes were pierced to give their arms egress. At Hobart in the early fifties, he has fraternised with John Mitchell, Smith O'Brien and O'Donahoo, three of the Irish patriots who narrowly escaped the gallows in 1849. In Tasmania, also, he has seen the "wild white man," Buckley, whose life among the blacks of Port Phillip has become the part of history. He was in Melbourne before the first electrifying news of the gold discoveries was made known, and he was a Ballarat miner some years prior to Peter Lalor and Lola Montez. Mr Miller, at the age of 87, speaks of these events, and of still earlier ones, with a keen appreciation of their significance, and with a memory that is still remarkably good – with something, too, of the typical Scotchman's eagerness to fight political and theological battles over again.

"One of my earliest recollections," he stated, recently," is seeing the herring fleet go out from Wick, the town in the North-east of Scotland where I was born. It was at the time the largest fishing town in Scotland, and during the herring season more than a 1000 boats would go out together[289]. Robert Louis Stevenson, who spent some time in Wick while his father built the pier there, says that the sailing of the herring fleet was one of the grandest sights he ever saw. I remember Elizabeth Fry coming to Wick, and also Dr Ritchie, but very few important visitors came so far north. There were no coaches, and the only means of communication with the South when I was a boy was a little schooner that came a few times a year. I learned to be a ropemaker in Wick, but made up my mind to get away to America or Australia. I was influenced in favour of Australia by hearing Dr. Lang lecturing about it. I don't know whether people now remember much about him—I met him in Melbourne years afterwards. I left Wick in the forties; spent some months in Glasgow, where I worked at my calling, and saw Fanny Kemble, Madame Vestris and Charles Matthews act; and going on to London left there on June 28th 1850, in the sailing ship Australasia, partly working and partly paying my passage. Three and a half years later we reached Hobart, where the convict system was still in full swing."

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[288] Further information on his life and times can be found in *The James Miller Story*. *The James Miller Story*, published for the centenary of James Miller & Co, 1962: James Miller. In 1854, he sent home for his childhood sweetheart, Catherine Gunn, whom he married in Geelong. One of their sons, J D Miller, became secretary and a director of the company in 1918. James Miller's youngest daughter, Katherine, married W P Vine, and their son, F S Vine, was managing director until 1960. Today (*1960s)* his son, James Miller Vine, a great grandson of James Miller, is with the company. James died at 92 in 1918, six years after Catherine's death.

[289] Neil M. Gunn's novel *The Silver Darlings* evokes Caithness at this time.

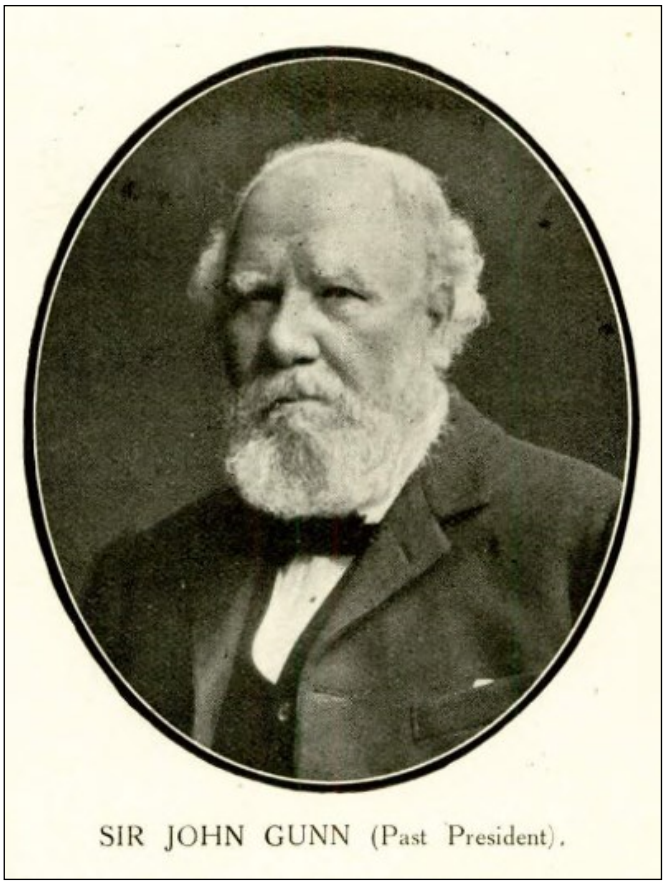
Mr Miller saw Sydney for the first time in 1851- and was rather surprised to find it so large a place. He distinctly remembers seeing the bullock wagons in Pitt-street. For the best part of a year after reaching Tasmania he worked as a sail maker, on the Lady Franklin, and made three voyages on her between Hobart and Norfolk Island. He saw Martin Cash at Norfolk Island, and bought a cabbage tree hat that he had made. The Lady Franklin was engaged in taking men who had served their time back from Norfolk Island, and in taking stores, etc., out to that remote spot. Of the strange life stories represented by some of the passengers in that ship Mr. Miller could have said a good deal at one time. He recalls some of them now; but the passage of sixty years has swept the Norfolk Island prisoners, their misfortunes, their crimes and their life tragedies into oblivion. Only a shadow or two remains in the pages of Marcus Clarke and Price Warung, and in the memory of a diminishing remnant of people alive to-day.

Mr Miller gave up the sea, and came to settle in Melbourne about the end of June, 1851. He had been there just a week when news came of the discovery of gold, first at Clunes, and then at Ballarat. The stir and the tumult and the call to arms created by that astonishing discovery-one destined to remould and furnish Australia-are fresh in the mind of the Melbourne manufacturer to-day, though two generations of settlement have trodden in the wake of the pioneer settlers of 62 years ago.

Mr Miller tried his luck with others at the gold fields, and struck what might be considered an average of success. He did not become wealthy all at once, but his digging was not a total failure. “I remember,” he said “when I went to Ballarat in 1851-I was with a party that walked all the way. When we arrived there were about 8000 or 9000 men on the field. Our party worked together for about four weeks, and in that time we got only about 8 oz. of gold. We decided to separate and each work for himself. I joined forces with a Cornishman, and as a result of the first day’s digging, we got 2 oz. each. Next day a piece of clay fell as my mate was going down into the workings—they were not more than about six feet deep in those days, and he thought it a bad omen and left. I found another Cornishman for a partner, and worked on. After four months we had about 60 oz. each. We tried to sell it in Melbourne, having made the journey back there in a cart, but there was only one buyer, Mr. J. Hart and all he could offer was £2 10/ an oz.. My mate took this but I sent mine home through Mr. Fulton, and got the full £4 an oz. I had some months longer at the digging and left in 1852. Yes, that was before the Eureka Stockade; but I remember reading about that when I had gone into business in Geelong. The men who pioneered the diggings are gone now. I suppose there not many left of the 8000 or 9000 we found at Ballarat in 1851, but they were a fine lot of men, take them for all in all. They were good and bad, of course—any number of black sheep; but if you had sat around a mining camp fire in those days you would have met men of every kind, of good birth and bad birth, of great ability, some of them, and all sorts of attainments—men that you don’t meet nowadays. Yes, I suppose, they have pretty well all gone.”

Mr Miller’s connections with Victorian manufacturers goes back 60 years. In the early fifties he left the diggings to go into business at Geelong. The town on Corio Bay was then threatening to rival Melbourne. Mr Miller started a coal yard and ship chandler business in Geelong, and, giving up a roving life, married a Miss Gunn, who, like himself, was a native of Scotland. Mrs Miller, who lived to be 82, died only a few months ago. In 1862 Mr Miller moved up to Melbourne. He turned his early experiences as sailer and sail maker to account by starting a rope and hemp business that was the parent of the one now carried on in his name. As a progressive Victorian he has done much for local industries, and it is largely due to him that the flax of Gippsland is now a valuable asset in local production. He still attends the fortnightly business meetings of his firm. His interest in all forms of activity-literary, political and social, as well as commercial-is that of a man who carries generous sympathies and abilities into a retirement well earned.

2. Sir John Gunn of Tormsdale, 1837 - 1918



SIR JOHN GUNN (Past President).

Sir John Gunn of Tormsdale[290] *was the son of Donald Gunn of Bualchork and Ann Mackay. This meant he was the nephew of Alexander Gunn of Bualchork and Brawlbin 1789 – 1847 who married* ***Barbara Gunn*** *of Braehour 1810 – 1844.* ***Barbara Gunn*** *was the second child of* ***Donald Gunn*** *1770 -1861 of Braehour and Brawlbin whose father was* ***John Braehour Gunn*** *1721 -1810.*

In other words, Sir John Gunn is only linked to the Braehour Gunn line which is why he is in the Appendices section and not in the main body of the text.

*****

Sir John Gunn of Tormsdale was born on 28 October 1837 in Halkirk Parish, Caithness. He was christened 4 November 1837 at Bualchork, Halkirk Parish, Caithness He was one of eight children. He died on 20 January 1918 in Cardiff, Glamorgan, aged 80. He married twice - first to Sarah Jane Hill in 1871 in Cardiff, Glamorgan, she died in 1875. He then married Harriette Boyle in 1877 in Belfast. Harriette Boyle was born circa 1846 in Ballymacrea, Antrim. She died in 1914 in Newport, Monmouthshire.

[290] Further information can be found at 'John O'Groat Journal' 8th February, 1918 (or the *South Wales Daily News* of a little earlier). *Who Was Who 1916-1928* and *Who's Who 1903.* For Sir John Gunn (1916 – 2002) the renowned mathematician and physicist see https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/11953833.sir-john-gunn-university-professor-who-specialised-in-science-research/

Achlibster farm, 2011. 'Achlibster' is presumed to mean the farm, no village exists today

Sir John Gunn appeared on the census of 6 June 1841 in the household of his parents Donald and Ann in Achlibster, Halkirk Parish, Caithness.[291] He also appeared on the census of 30 March 1851 at the same place.[292] He was educated at Halkirk[293] and had dreams of becoming a lawyer.

At seventeen he moved to Cardiff and entered the drapery business in which he was very successful and so had the capital to move into ship-owning. He also '*was a partner of J. Bland & Co., timber merchants, and to his connection with this firm, of which he was chairman for some years, its progressive advancement was largely due… Sir John was also a director of the North British and Mercantile Insurance Co… He also represented the Cardiff Chamber of Commerce on Lloyd's Register of shipping, as a member of the committee. Sir John Gunn took considerable interest in the operations of the Institute of Marine Engineers, and was associated with the meetings held in Cardiff in connection with the resident membership. He was President of the Institute during the session 1903-4.*[294]

He was also a Kirk elder at Roath Park Presbyterian Church (now St Andrew's United Reformed Church). He was, presumably, buried there in a vault on 24 January 1918. He was also a J.P..

And from another biography -

The Mount Stuart Dry Dock (and Engineering Company) *was … acquired in 1872 by a syndicate of which John Gunn was the principal promoter. Two years later, John was joined by his brother, Marcus who acted as manager …*

… the two brothers … decided to enter shipowning themselves when they took delivery of the 1,481 gross tons iron steamer "Dunedin" … By 1892, John and Marcus Gunn & Co. of 11 Mount Stuart Square, owned a further three vessels: the iron steamers "Cornelia" (894 gross tons, built 1872), "Dunbar" (1,774 gross tons, built 1876), and "Dunkeld" (2,791 gross tons, built 1880). (Technically owned by John and Marcus Gunn & Co.).

[291] UK Census 06 June 1841: Donald Gunn 40 farmer head; Ann Gunn 30 wife; Hector Gunn 13 son; Donald Gunn 11 son; Janet Gunn 9 daughter; Helen Gunn 7 daughter; Margaret Gunn 5 daughter; John Gunn 3 son; Christina Gunn 1 daughter; all resident at Achlipster.
[292] UK Census 30 March 1851: Donald Gunn 52 head farmer of 14 acres; Ann Gunn 42; Hector Gunn 22; Donald Gunn 19; Janet Gunn 17; Helen Gunn 15; Margaret Gunn 13; John Gunn 11; Christina Gunn 9; Marcus Gunn 5; all resident at Bualchork.
[293] See https://library.imarest.org › record › 1070 › files › 1062.pdf accessed 8 July 2024 for further details used in this biography.
[294] See https://library.imarest.org › record › 1070 › files › 1062.pdf accessed 8 July 2024 for further details used in this biography.

... The Gunns' tramp steamers were employed in the coal trade ... The Gunns were involved in a cut-throat business … (Steamers owned included the 'Lorna Doone' 1896-1898.)

(John Gunn) *was elected as president of the Cardiff Chamber of Commerce in 1886 and 1887 and again in 1897. In 1891 he was chairman of the Cardiff Shipowners' Association. As well as being chairman of the timber importers, John Bland & Co. Ltd., John Gunn held a number of directorships and he was to be found on the boards of the Cardiff Railway Company, the Bristol and West of England Bank, Cardiff Collieries*[295] *(Llanbradach) Ltd. and several other public companies.*

... In 1892 he unsuccessfully contested a Cardiff constituency on the Unionist ticket.[296] *For several years he was a member of Cardiff Town Council*[297] *and in June 1898 ... the Cardiff Caledonian Society, of which he was founder, held a special banquet in celebration of the knighthood conferred upon him ... (he was) the principal founder of the Presbyterian Church in Windsor Place of which he was the senior elder for many years…*

The Gunns' fleet of steamers always remained a modest one ... and by 1899 they had sold the elderly steamers "Cornelia", "Dunbar", and "Dunkeld", leaving them with their first ship, the "Dunedin". In 1903 the "Dunedin" was sold and was replaced by the "Renwick" (664 gross tons, built 1890) which in turn was sold two years later. For their subsequent tramp steamers, the Gunns adopted the limited liability system of ship ownership in which the ownership of each vessel was turned into a limited liability company. ... Honouring their birthplace in Caithness, the Gunn brothers had the steel screw steamer "Achlibster" (4,395 gross tons) built for them in 1906 by Richardson, Duck & Co. of Stockton-on-Tees. Her owners were the Achlibster S. S. Co. Ltd. and was managed by the Gunn brothers. A similar steamer, the "Bilbster", owned by the Bilbster. S. S. Co. Ltd., followed from the same builders in 1908.

In 1911 the managership ... was taken over by A. H. and E. Gunn. Arthur H. Gunn was one of Sir John's three sons (he also had six daughters) and I can only assume that E. Gunn was a son of Marcus Gunn[298]*. The younger Gunns added a third ship to the fleet, the steel screw steamers, "Chalister", which was built in 1913 by D. & W. Henderson & Co. Ltd., Partick, Glasgow. The "Chalister" was a typical shelter deck tramp steamer and was employed in the deep sea tramping trades throughout her career which lasted until 1942. She had a large cargo carrying capacity but like many such ships, she was underpowered and able to maintain only 8½ knots on 34 tons of coal per day.*

The year in which the "Chalister" was built marked the peak of Cardiff's coal exporting prosperity when a staggering 10,576,506 tons of coal was exported. ... During the war itself, many ships were requisitioned by the Admiralty to serve as colliers which were needed to replenish the bunkers of the Royal Navy's warships. The s.s. "Bilbster" was requisitioned to perform this role .... While the "Achlibster" and "Chalister" survived the war, the "Bilbster" was not so fortunate because she was lost after a collision, east of the Azores on 21st November, 1917[299]*.*

[295] In 1915, at least. See https://welshcoalmines.co.uk/GlamEast/Llanbradach.htm accessed 8 July 2024.
[296] He lost by 686 votes to Edward Reed of the Liberal Party.
[297] Certainly for 1883-1884. See https://www.british-history.ac.uk/cardiff-records/vol5/pp84-97 accessed 8 July 2024.
[298] He was correct in this assumption; Ernest Gunn (3329) 1878-1916 was a son of Marcus Gunn and Mary Elizabeth Yeandle (3329).
[299] http://newspapers.nla.gov.au/ndp/del/article/15614673?searchTerm=Gunn from a 1915 article concerning the 'Bilbster'; it carried 6710 tons of metal from the Australian Metal Company consigned to a company to London but really destined for Germany. The claim was whether the Gunns could claim the freight or whether it belonged to the Crown. It was reported in London on September 17. In October 'The Argus' of 8 October reports that J. and M. Gunn would get £2,546 of the proceeds and also see 'The Argus' of 20 September 1915, page 7.

Sir John Gunn died on 20th January, 1918 …

A. H. & E. Gunn sold the "Achlibster" and "Chalister" in 1919 and never resumed shipowning although A. H. Gunn continued as a director of the Mount Stuart Dry Locks Ltd. …

On exhibition in the 20th Century Merchant Shipping Gallery in the East Wing of the National Maritime Museum at Greenwich is a builders' half-model of the s.s. "Chalister". [300]

The model of the "Chalister'' can be seen at (in 2010) the historic Chatham Dockyards in Kent.

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Children of Sir John Gunn of Tormsdale and Sarah Jane Hill, all born in Cardiff, Glamorgan, were –

i. John Donald Gunn was born in 1872. He died in 1872 in Cardiff, Glamorgan.
ii. Herbert Oswald Gunn was born in 1873.
iii. Arthur Hill Gunn was born in 1875. He and Ernest Gunn (the eldest son of Marcus Gunn – the brother to Sir John Gunn) took over managership of the ships 'Achlibster' and 'Bilbster' from John and Marcus Gunn in 1911 in Cardiff, Glamorgan and added the steel screw steamer 'Chalister' to the family fleet in 1913. They sold the 'Achlibster' and 'Chalister' in 1919 and never resumed shipowning. Arthur remained a director of the Mount Stuart Dry Locks Ltd in 1919 in Cardiff, Glamorgan.

Children of Sir John Gunn of Tormsdale and Harriette Boyle also all born in Cardiff, were:

i. Annie Boyle GUNN was born in 1879. She married Frederick George Penny 20 July 1905 in Cardiff, Glamorgan. (He was created 1st Viscount Marchwood, of Penang, and of Marchwood, co. Southampton on 13 September 1945.) She died 20 April 1957. Descendants.
ii. Winifred Mackay GUNN was born in 1879. She married Francis Brodie Lodge, son of Sir Oliver Joseph Lodge and Mary Fanny Alexander Marshall, in 1909 in Cardiff, Glamorgan. They divorced in 1928. Francis Brodie LODGE was born in 1880. He died in 1967. He and Alec Lodge took out a patent for an improved system of high tension ignition for motor vehicles in 1903[301]. He and Alec Lodge formed a partnership, Lodge Bros, in 1904 at 4 New Street, Birmingham, West Midlands. They opened their first workshop in 1907 in Wrentham Street, Birmingham, West Midlands. Francis was the founder, with his brother Alec, of the Lodge Plug Company, manufacturer of spark plugs for cars and aeroplanes. He assembled one of the world's largest collections of Chinese ceramics and bronzes.
iii. Olive Mildred GUNN was born in 1881.
iv. Elsie Maud GUNN was born in 1882.
v. Hester Boyle GUNN was born in 1885.
vi. John Boyle GUNN was born in 1888.
vii. Marjorie Lilian GUNN was born in 1889. She married Frederic Stratton in 1913 in Cardiff, Glamorgan.

[300] Being from P. R. Myers, "Sir John Gunn, the Cardiff Business Entrepreneur from Caithness," *The Caithness Field Club Journal* (October 1983). I have seen the model, 2010.
[301] See http://www.macrugby.com/history-lodge.htm for further details about the Lodge family.

3. Marcus Gunn 1842 – 1899, brother of Sir John Gunn of Tormsdale

Marcus Gunn was a younger brother of Sir John Gunn and was born on 5 May 1842 in Bualchork, Halkirk Parish, Caithness. He was christened 9 May 1842 at the same place. He married Mary Elizabeth Yeandle in 1877 in Shurdington, Gloucestershire. She was born in 1855. The children of Marcus Gunn and Mary Elizabeth Yeandle, all born in Cardiff, Glamorgan, were:

i. Ernest Gunn was born in 1878. He died in 1916 in Cardiff, Glamorgan. Ernest and Arthur Hill Gunn, a son of Sir John Gunn, took over managership of the ships Achlibster and Bilbster from John & Marcus Gunn in 1911 in Cardiff, Glamorgan. He and Arthur Hill Gunn added the steel screw steamer 'Chalister' to the family fleet in 1913. He and Arthur Hill Gunn sold the 'Achlibster' and 'Chalister' in 1919 and never resumed shipowning.
ii. Beatrice McKay Gunn was born in 1880.
iii. Marcus Sinclair Gunn was born in 1890.

Marcus appeared on the census of 30 March 1851 in the household of his parents Donald and Ann in Bualchork, Halkirk Parish, Caithness.[302] He was appointed manager of the Mount Stuart Dry Dock in 1874 in Cardiff, Glamorgan. He and Sir John Gunn were the owners of four ships, 'Dunedin', 'Cornelia', 'Dunbar' and 'Dunkeld' in 1892 owned by 'John and Marcus Gunn & Co.'. He and Sir John Gunn had the 4395 gross ton 'Achlibster' built in honour of their birthplace in 1906. He and Sir John Gunn had the 'Bilbster', similar to the 'Achlibster', built in 1908. He was present when Arthur Hill Gunn and Ernest Gunn took over managership of the ships 'Achlibster' and 'Bilbster' from John and Marcus Gunn in 1911 in Cardiff, Glamorgan. He was present when Arthur Hill Gunn and Ernest Gunn added the steel screw steamer 'Chalister' to the family fleet in 1913. Marcus died in September 1899 in Cardiff, Glamorgan, at age 57.

He was a strong supporter of the Cardiff Free Library, there was a bust of him donated to the Library.

Newspaper obituary for Marcus Gunn

"The South Wales Daily News reported in 1899 the death, after a short illness, of Marcus Gunn, a native of Caithness and one of the most prominent business men in Cardiff. He was 54 years of age and best known in commercial circles outside Cardiff as a member of the firm of J. and M. Gunn, shipowners, his partner being his brother, Sir John Gunn. The firm was largely interested in the Mountstuart Dry Dock Company, who were entrusted with the work of raising the *City of Paris* from the Falmouth. The firm was also interested in Bland & Co. Timber merchants as well as other local enterprises. A remarkably able business man Marcus was often invited to devote time to public work, but the Free Library and Infirmary were the only institutions in whose management he took an active interest. His private library contained many rare volumes.

He was born at Westerdale, Caithness in 1845 and went to South Wales in 1864 as representative of a manufacturing firm in the North of England. After a short absence, when he filled the position of representative of an engineering firm at Glasgow he returned to Cardiff to join his brother in business at the Mountstewart Dry Dock and Engineering Works, subsequently becoming a partner in the undertaking. At the time of his death he was one of the directors of the company, as well as a director of Bland & Co. He left a widow and six children, the eldest son having attained his majority. *"Northern Ensign", undated, 1903*

[302] UK Census 30 March 1851: Donald Gunn 52 head farmer of 14 acres; Ann Gunn 42; Hector Gunn 22; Donald Gunn 19; Janet Gunn 17; Helen Gunn 15; Margaret Gunn 13; John Gunn 11; Christina Gunn 9; Marcus Gunn 5; all resident at Bualchork.

├── **John GUNN (Sir)** of Tormsdale, b. 28 Oct 1837 Halkirk Parish, Caithness, d. 20 Jan 1918 Cardiff, Glamorgan
│ +Sarah Jane HILL, m. 1871 Cardiff, Glamorgan, d. 1875
│ ├── John Donald GUNN, b. 1872 Cardiff, Glamorgan, d. 1872 Cardiff, Glamorgan
│ ├── Herbert Oswald GUNN, b. 1873 Cardiff, Glamorgan
│ └── Arthur Hill GUNN, b. 1875 Cardiff, Glamorgan
│ +Harriette BOYLE, b. c. 1846 Ballymacrea, Antrim, m. 1877 Belfast, d. 1914 Newport, Monmouthshire
│ ├── Annie Boyle GUNN, b. 1879 Cardiff, Glamorgan
│ │ +Frederick George PENNY, m. 1905 Cardiff, Glamorgan
│ ├── Winifred Mackay GUNN, b. 1879 Cardiff, Glamorgan
│ │ +Francis Brodie LODGE, b. 1880, m. 1909 Cardiff, Glamorgan, d. 1967
│ ├── Olive Mildred GUNN, b. 1881 Cardiff, Glamorgan
│ ├── Elsie Maud GUNN, b. 1882 Cardiff, Glamorgan
│ ├── Hester Boyle GUNN, b. 1885 Cardiff, Glamorgan
│ ├── John Boyle GUNN, b. 1888 Cardiff, Glamorgan
│ └── Marjorie Lilian GUNN, b. 1889 Cardiff, Glamorgan
│ +Frederic STRATTON, m. 1913 Cardiff, Glamorgan
├── **Marcus GUNN**, b. 5 May 1842 Bualchork, Halkirk Parish, Caithness, d. Sep 1899 Cardiff, Glamorgan
│ +Mary Elizabeth YEANDLE, b. 1855, m. 1877 Shurdington, Gloucestershire
│ ├── Ernest GUNN, b. 1878 Cardiff, Glamorgan, d. 1916 Cardiff, Glamorgan
│ ├── Beatrice McKay GUNN, b. 1880 Cardiff, Glamorgan
│ └── Marcus Sinclair GUNN, b. 1890 Cardiff, Glamorgan

Ships / boats owned by J. and M. Gunn

'Caledon'; 384 gross tonnage and 303 net tonnage. 127.2 x 25.5 x 14.8 feet. She was a three-mast planked on iron frame vessel. She was completed in August 1866 in Middlesborough by Harkass for Jones Bros. and named the 'R.H. Jones'. In around 1875 she was sold to R. Cowell and Co of Cardiff who renamed her 'Richard Cowell'. She was surveyed in Cardiff in 1878 and acquired by J. and M. Gunn who renamed it the 'Caledon'. She was not in the Lloyds Register after 1884.

'Dunedin'; 2,284 gross tonnage and 1,412 net tonnage. 286 x 37.3 x 22.9 feet. She was an iron steamship, compound two cylinders by the builders. She was completed in September 1883 by W. Doxford and Sons, Sunderland for J. and M. Gunn as the 'Dunedin.' In 1901 she was sold to the Bank of Athens and renamed the 'Beeby'. She was wrecked in 1908.

'Dunbar'; 1,812 gross tonnage and 1,182 net tonnage. 280.2 x 34.0 x 24.0 feet. She was an iron steamship, compound two cylinders by R. Stephenson and Co. Newcastle. She was completed by W. Doxford and Sons, Sunderland for Farnham and Co. Newcastle and called 'Peer of the Realm'. She was acquired by J. and M. Gunn in 1885 and called the 'Dunbar', after various other companies had briefly owned her. She was posted missing in March 1898 on a voyage from Theodisia to Leith, with a cargo of barley.

'Dunkeld'; 2,796 gross tonnage and 2,117 net tonnage. 320.8 x 40.5 x 23.2 feet. She was an iron steamship, compound two cylinders by the builders. She was completed in 1880 by A. Stephens and Co. Glasgow and called 'Katie'. First trace of an owner is in 1887 wher she was owned by Christopher Furness. In 1889 J. and M. Gunn acquired her and renamed her 'Dunkeld'. She was lost east of Lobos Island, Uruguay, when on a voyage from Barry Dock, Wales, to Buenos Aires with a cargo of coal.

'Cornelia'; 903 gross tonnage, 553 net tonnage. 220.3 x 29.2 x 16.3 feet. She was an iron steamship, compound two cylinders by T. Richardson and Sons, Hartlepool. She was completed in January 1872 by Denton, Grays and Co. West Hartlepool for Fritz Herskind of West Hartlepool and was called the 'Cornelia'. In 1886 the owners became Herskind and Woods. In 1889 she was acquired by J. and M. Gunn. On 13 August 1897 she was sold to Cornelia Steamship Co. Ltd. Of Cardiff, being Guthrie, Heywood and Co. She was then sold to William Monroe of Cardiff on 8 May 1900. On 6 March 1917 she was captured by SM UC-43 (being a German Type 11 mine-laying submarine) and sunk by gunfire nine miles northwest of the Skelligs whilst on a voyage from Oporto to Cardiff with a cargo of pitwood. The SM UC-43 was sunk four days later at Muckle Flugga.

'Renwick'; 664 gross tonnage, 402 net tonnage. 180 x 28.1 x13.7 feet. She was a steel steamship; 3 cylinders by N.E. Marine Engineering Co of Newcastle. She was completed by Tyne 1 Shipbuilders of Newcastle for Renwick S.S. Co. (Fisher, Renwick and Co.) as 'Renwick'. March 1903 she was stranded and wrecked. She was acquired by Sir John Gunn on 1 April 1904 and sold on 14 May 1906 to R. M. Horne-Payne of Walbrook, London which became the Renwick Co. Ltd (H.W. Harding) of Newcastle in c. 1907. She was sunk by collision in December 1911.

'Coronation'; 2,461 gross tonnage, 1,574 net tonnage. 286 x 40.7 x 18.2 feet. She was a steel steamship; 3 cylinders by Hutson and Son, Glasgow. She was completed by Grangemouth Dockyard Co in July 1894 for Macbeth and Gray, Glasgow and named 'Dunblane'. In 1894 she was sold to M. Angel Cardiff and renamed the 'Phyllis Angel'. On 26 May 1902 she was acquired by Sir John Gunn and renamed the 'Coronation'. In 1903 she was onsold and renamed the 'Wilhelmine'. There is no record of her in Lloyds Register after 1904.

'Achlibster'; 4,395 gross tonnage and 2,820 net tonnage. 355.2 x 51.1 x 26.8 feet. She was a steel steamship; 3 cylinders by Blair and Co. Ltd. of Stockton-on-Tees. She was completed February 1906 by Richardson, Duck and Co. Stockton for Achlibster S.S. Co. Ltd (J. and M. Gunn and Co. Cardiff). She was later sold to Humphries of Cardiff and renamed 'Glofield'. In c. 1927 she was then sold to Watts, Watts and Co and renamed 'Hampstead'. Later she was sold to N. A. Cottakis of Greece and renamed 'Alecos'. She was wrecked in 1935.

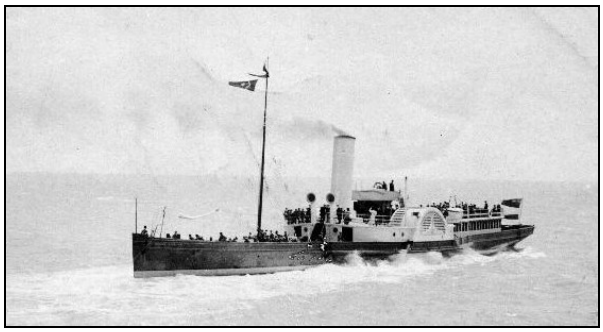
'Bilbster'; 4,478 gross tonnage and 2,790 net tonnage. 355.4 x 51.1 x 26.8 feet. She was a steel steamship; 3 cylinders by Blair and Co. Ltd. Stockton. She was completed January 1908 by Richardson, Duck and Co. of Stockton-on-Tees for Bilbster S.S. Co Ltd. (J. and M. Gunn Cardiff). In 1915 she was on Lloyds Register for A.H. Gunn and in 1917 for A.H. and E. Gunn. Ther are reports that she was a naval collier during the First World War but another source says she carried oil fuel; she may have done both. On approximately 21 November 1919 she was lost in a collision east of the Azores.

'Chalister'; 5,344 gross tonnage and 3,369 net tonnage. She was a steel shelter deck steamship; 3 cylinders by the builders. She was completed by D. and W. Henderson and Co.Ltd of Glasgow for Chalister S.S. Co. Ltd (J. and M. Gunn and Co. Ltd.) in August 1913. In 1917 (possibly 1919) she was sold to Anglo-Newfoundland S.S. Co and in 1920 then sold to R.McLelland of Kingston, Ontario, Canada. She was then sold to Adam Bros., of Greenock in 1922. In 1924 she was sold to Turnbull, Scott Shipping and renamed the 'Haggersgate'. In March 1936 she was sold to Seerederei Frigga of Germany and renamed the 'Hodur'. On 20 April 1943 she was sunk by HM submarine 'Trident' northwest of Namsos, Norway.

S.S. Chalister.

John Gunn and Co. Registered vessels 1896 -1899

These vessels were leased / hired.



S.S. Bonnie Doon

'**Bonnie Doon'** a steam paddle steamer; 272 gross tonnage and 81 net tonnage. The builders were T. B. Scath and Co, in 1876; 1 cylinder by A. Campbell and Sons Glasgow. She was registered by John Gunn in October 1896 and certainly by 1899 was in other hands. She 'early on acquired the nickname 'Bonnie Breakdoon[303]'' She was broken up in 1913 in Rotterdam.

'Lord Tredegar' was an iron paddle steamer; 179 gross tonnage and 12 net tonnage. 192.1 x 18 x 7.4 feet. The vessel was completed by Fullerton and Co. Paisley for Lochgoil Steamboat company, named 'Carrick Castle'. The steamer was renamed 'Lady Margaret' in 1888 and then 'Lord Tredegar' in 1896.

'Scotia' was an iron paddle steamer; 303 gross tonnage and 38 net tonnage. 211.2 x 21.8 x 8.3 feet. The vessel was in the name of John Gunn in the October 1896 Lloyds Register.

'Rover' was an iron paddle steamer; 188 gross tonnage and 87 net tonnage. 140.6 x 20.1 x 8.2 feet. It was originally called the 'Chepstow' and built in 1874 for the Great Western Railway Co. It was in the name of John Gunn in 1896. It was wrecked in 1896.

'Lorna Doone' was a steam paddle steamer; 427 gross tonnage and 83 net tonnage. 220.05 x 26 x 9.2 feet; 2 cylinders by D. Rowan and Son Glasgow. In the name of J. Gunn October 1896, by 1899 sold to the Isle of Wight Steam Packet Co.

[303] http://website.lineone.net/~tom_lee/bonniedoonimg.htm

4. Descendants of Hugh Gunn in Tormsdale 1787 – c. 1846

Hugh was a son of Donald Gunn, Tormsdale, 1750 - 1840 and Janet McKenzie. Hugh's brother Alexander Gunn (Bualchork and Brawlbin) 1789 -1847 married ***Barbara (Braehour) Gunn*** *1810 – 1844. Alexander and Barbara had Catherine who married* ***James Miller*** *1826-1918 and* ***Donald Gunn*** *1832-1901 who had the* ***Hon. John Alexander Gunn****.*

Hugh Gunn in Tormsdale, b. 1787 Tormsdale, Halkirk Parish, Caithness, d. between 1841 and 1851 Halkirk Parish, Caithness
+Henrietta MCGREGOR of Dalnawillan, b. 1795 Latheron Parish, Caithness, m. 28 Oct 1814, d. 15 Apr 1890 Houstry, Dunbeath Parish, Caithness
├── William GUNN, chr. 24 Sep 1815 Inishmull, Halkirk Parish, Caithness
├── Janet GUNN, chr. 04 Apr 1817 Inishmull, Halkirk Parish, Caithness, d. 15 Aug 1890 Houstry, Dunbeath Parish, Caithness
├── Catherine GUNN, chr. 10 Jan 1819 Inishmull, Halkirk Parish, Caithness, d. 17 Mar 1913 Lybster, Latheron Parish, Caithness
│ +Alexander MCDONALD, b. 1803 Latheron Parish, Caithness, m. 30 Oct 1857 Latheron Parish, Caithness, d. circa 1891 Latheron Parish, Caithness
│ ├── Christina Sutherland MCDONALD, b. 13 Apr 1859 Latheron Parish, Caithness, d. 1876 Latheron Parish, Caithness
│ └── Henrietta MCDONALD, b. 10 Jan 1861 Latheron Parish, Caithness
├── Helen GUNN, b. 29 Sep 1822 Camster, Latheron Parish, Caithness
├── Christina GUNN, b. 1825 Camster, Latheron Parish, Caithness, d. 24 Apr 1863 Houstry, Dunbeath Parish, Caithness
├── Henrietta GUNN, b. 1827 Camster, Latheron Parish, Caithness
│ +John CAMPBELL
│ └── Mary CAMPBELL, b. circa 1853 Latheron Parish, Caithness, d. 15 Mar 1934 Duthill, Inverness
│ +Neil SINCLAIR, b. 03 Jan 1857, m. 09 Feb 1882 Houstry, Dunbeath Parish, Caithness, d. 11 Mar 1939
│ ├── Alexander SINCLAIR, b. 1877 Latheron Parish, Caithness
│ ├── Ann Gunn SINCLAIR, b. 1883 Latheron Parish, Caithness
│ ├── Henrietta Janet SINCLAIR, b. 1885 Inverness
│ ├── Elizabeth SINCLAIR, b. 1888 Inverness
│ ├── Neil Francis SINCLAIR, b. 1890 Inverness, d. 22 Sep 1917 Frank, Alberta
│ ├── Adam Robert SINCLAIR, b. 1894 Moy, Inverness
│ └── Mary SINCLAIR, b. 1897 Moy, Inverness
├── Donald GUNN, b. 1829 Camster, Latheron Parish, Caithness, d. 09 Jan 1912 Latheron Parish, Caithness
│ +Williamina SINCLAIR, b. 07 Dec 1834 Halkirk Parish, Caithness, m. 13 Jan 1857 Halkirk Parish, Caithness, d. 20 Jun 1912 Latheron Parish, Caithness
│ ├── Hugh GUNN, b. 13 Dec 1857 Halkirk Parish, Caithness
│ ├── Alexander Henderson Robertson GUNN, b. 20 Sep 1859 Caithness
│ ├── Elizabeth GUNN, b. 15 Oct 1861 Olrig Parish, Caithness
│ ├── William GUNN, b. 08 Dec 1863 Halkirk Parish, Caithness
│ └── John Waters GUNN, b. 29 Apr 1866 Halkirk Parish, Caithness
├── Mary GUNN, b. 1835 Camster, Latheron Parish, Caithness
│ +James SUTHERLAND, b. 1819 Latheron Parish, Caithness, m. 20 Feb 1857 Latheron Parish, Caithness
│ └── Andrew George SUTHERLAND, b. 28 Jan 1861 Latheron Parish, Caithness
├── John GUNN, chr. 10 Feb 1837 Wick Parish, Caithness
│ +Ann MCINTOSH, b. circa 1835, m. 26 Nov 1858 Latheron Parish, Caithness
│ ├── Hugh GUNN, b. 11 Sep 1859 Latheron Parish, Caithness
│ │ +Margaret DUNNET, b. circa 1861 Wick Parish, Caithness, m. 28 Sep 1883 Wick Parish, Caithness

└── Elizabeth Smith GUNN, b. 1888 Wick Parish, Caithness
├── John GUNN, b. 15 Jun 1861 Latheron Parish, Caithness
├── Adam GUNN, b. 07 Jul 1864 Latheron Parish, Caithness
├── Donald GUNN, b. 15 Apr 1866 Latheron Parish, Caithness
├── Alexander GUNN, b. 18 Jan 1868 Latheron Parish, Caithness
├── Ann GUNN, b. 11 Sep 1871 Latheron Parish, Caithness
└── George GUNN, b. 24 Jan 1873 Latheron Parish, Caithness
└── Alexander GUNN, chr. 27 Jul 1839 Wick Parish, Caithness, d. 06 Mar 1916 Houstry, Dunbeath Parish, Caithness
+Christina GUNN, b. circa 1854 Halkirk Parish, Caithness, m. 1893 d. 15 May 1920 Latheron Parish, Caithness
├── Henrietta GUNN, b. 1894 Latheron Parish, Caithness, d. 28 Mar 1975 Dunbeath, Latheron Parish, Caithness
└── Alexander M K GUNN, b. 1896 Latheron Parish, Caithness, d. 23 Oct 1915 Latheron Parish, Caithness

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